China Weekly Review

密勒氏評論報

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EDITORIALS:

IS THERE ENOUGH FOOD?

SCIENTISTS' NEW ROLE

APRIL 8, 1950 **JMP 5,000**

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LETTERS From The People

Comments from readers on current topics are cordially invited: their opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the views of The China Weekly Review.

FACTS TALK

To the Editor:

I was very interested in reading the attack on the China Weekly Review in the March 25th issue.

It would appear that you are in very safe company these days with roving Ambassador Jessup, Mrs. Dean Acheson and now Owen Lattimore.

However, I hope you don't feel the necessity of racing back to America to defend yourself! I would like to suggest that the best answer the Review can give to such vicious statements is to continue its policy of carrying accurate and factual news about China, for the facts speak for themselves, and they make people like Mr. Simmons look very silly indeed.

P. C. S.

Shanghai
April 1, 1950

LIBERATION PLAYS

To the Editor:

The many foreigners in Shanghai who lament the "good old days" when it was their city and the present lack of social activities are missing a great deal by not going to see the excellent liberation plays being put on in several theaters in the city.

"Red Flag," which portrays the problems of women textile workers is now in its nintieth performance and is playing to packed and enthusiastic audiences. Other plays such as "The Ideological Problem" (思想問題) and "Liu Hu-lan" (劉胡蘭) are equally interesting to foreigners who want to understand the changes taking place in China.

The new spirit of the audiences who are mainly workers and students is quickly apparent by the spontaneous singing that generally precedes the plays. Groups of students and workers sing the new liberation songs in front of the theater or in the lobby, and often someone from the audience gets up on the stage and leads the singing. It would take a very hard-hearted character indeed not to want to join in.

The settings and costumes for the most part are very simple but excellently done.

Watching the plays and the audience reaction is one way of judging the popular support of the People's government.

A. T. C.

Shanghai
April 1, 1950

YOUTH MEETING

To the Editor:

I was privileged to attend the recent meeting held in Shanghai under the auspices of the WFDY, at which speakers of many nationalities called for world peace and demanded that active preparations for war and warmongering talk now going on in the west, particularly America—be stopped.

Not having had an opportunity to speak, I should now like to add my voice to the growing chorus of the people of the world, a chorus demanding peace in no uncertain terms. I am an American citizen, with no axe to grind and no party affiliations, Republican or Communist. I have seen with growing dismay certain trends in the United States which, if not diverted into more constructive channels, seem to point directly toward a new war. This must not happen. It is up to every American to show, by word and action, that this must not and shall not happen.

Mere lackadaisical pacifism will not do. I haven't been in the States recently, but apparently general prosperity is yet running high; and in such times, the average American is all too inclined to take his politics too lightly. If he can tear himself away from his business or the golf course to go through the motions of voting, he considers his civic duty done. It is this fact, most of all, which has brought America to its present role of hated bully in the world.

You might ask, how does it happen that an "average American" has arrived at such heretic views? Although America is my native country, I have been fortunate in one sense in being away from it for the greater part of the last several years. This has enabled me to escape the constant barrage of "news" and propaganda which faithfully reflects the official line, on the one hand, and on the other to see with my own eyes the results of the present American policy. I have seen, most dramatically in China, how this policy affects the people of China, as distinguished from the upper crust of the late and unlamented KMT regime. The members of this tawdry elite, having behaved in brutal fashion toward their own people, and having become immensely rich (at the expense of the American taxpayer, be it noted), are now gone with the wind. Presumably they got what they wanted.

But the people are still here; and if they are not yet enjoying a brilliant prosperity (which the more reasonable never demanded or expected), it is in great part due to present American policy. This policy, while professing great love for the Chinese people, at the asme time makes possible the bombing of peaceful civilians and the blockade of Shanghai. Such a policy and such actions must receive their proper name: they constitute downright cynical hypocrisy.

I know the people of China want and need peace. Their country, devastated by long years of war, needs a vast amount of time and constructive effort, so that the livelihood of the whole people may be raised. America suffered no such devastation, and its productive capacity, high before the war, has grown even mightier. Americans cannot imagine the present poverty of China, the low standard of living of its people —officials included. If they could, they would rise up in anger and, remembering the difficulties and achievements of their own early history, would demand that their government stop using their money to pursue a bankrupt and inhuman policy of further aid to the KMT. This policy can only further enrich a handful of corrupt officials sitting on Taiwan and wreak further harm on a peaceful people, intent only upon the job at hand.

The situation in China is far better known, through State Department and other channels, in Washington than it is to the general public of America. Washington knows that China now has a truly democratic government. Washington knows that neither that government nor the people of China want war with anyone. And finally, Washington knows that there is no pipeline from Moscow for the transmittal of orders of the day to Peking.

Why, then, does the American government continue to aid the KMT and oppose the people of China? Why does it continue to pile up arms at home and send the surplus into every nook and cranny it can find? Why, in a world of peoples who desire only peace and reconstruction, must it seek fascist legmen who eagerly accept American arms to keep whole nations in subjection? If the American government wants to give something away, why can't it give the food surpluses of the nation to those peoples of the world who desperately need more food? Why, at last, this continuous barrage of bellicose propaganda, which, to any objective observer would seem laughably childish were its aim and intent not so serious.

These are questions the people of America might well ask themselves. They should attempt to answer them clearly and honestly. If they find that America is following a democratic policy at home and a peaceful policy abroad, they can go back to their golf courses.

(Continued on Page 103)

THE CHINA WEEKLY REVIEW

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Vol. 117 Shanghai, Saturday, April 8, 1950 No. 6

IS THERE ENOUGH FOOD?

THE old question of whether or not China can feed herself appears to be due for a final answer in the near future and all indications are that the answer will be "yes." Ever since the West first made contact with China, it has been a popular assumption among foreigners that one of this country's biggest and most insoluble problems was the food shortage or, to put it the other way around, the over-population.

In recent years many serious students of the China scene, as well as apologists for the Kuomintang, have claimed that the food shortage was an "inherent" problem.

Liberation and a new administration have not altered the views of many people on this question. Only recently we were told by one student of Chinese affairs that there were certain "objective factors" which any government of China had to contend with. Chief among these was the country's chronic inability to feed itself. This "chronic problem," our informant said, was responsible for many of the KMT's difficulties and would present no fewer difficulties to the new regime.

* * *

FOR a long time we have not been at all sure that this was the case. Year in and year out we have observed food rotting in warehouses—even in Shanghai—while people went hungry or even starved. Poor storage, poor transportation and poor organization of distribution, not to mention the corruption and venality of an officialdom which profited from the public misery, have undoutedly contributed to the food "shortage."

Now, nearly a year after the liberation of the East China region, we can begin to get a more accurate picture of the food situation. Aside from a brief period of shortage just after the change-over, Shanghai's food position has been better than ever before. Generally, we understand, the same favorable situation exists in most other major cities, although there are very serious shortages in a number of areas.

Considering all the "objective factors"—the worst floods in two decades, a military campaign covering the length and breadth of the country, KMT looting and destruction and bombing, years of neglect which have resulted in deterioration of dikes and other flood control and irrigation devices, damaged and disorganized transport and the absence of foreign food imports—the country's food position is remarkably good.

If this is so, the questions of "why?" and "how?" immediately present themselves. There are, of course, many reasons, but, it seems to us, they may all be summed up by saying that at long last China has a government which is really interested in the public welfare and is thus willing to make all possible efforts to get the food to the people.

* * *

RIGHT here in Shanghai it has been evident from the beginning that the new government really intended to take all practical steps possible in its efforts to ensure a sufficient supply of food, especially rice. One of its first moves was to prohibit the interference with shipments of food or other commodities to and from the city by local military or other organs in the countryside.

Private merchants were encouraged to enter the transportation business, while the government itself organized large state trading companies to engage in the interchange of commodities between urban and rural areas and between the various regions of the country. Meanwhile, work was begun on the restoration of rail, water and road transport.

Next, the authorities turned their attention to the problem of securing adequate distribution of food stocks after they reached the cities. Residents of Shanghai know well the story of the battle waged between the city's rice merchants and the public food corporation and how the latter gradually gained the upper hand.

Now, instead of local rice hongs dictating the price by deciding when and how much to sell, the government does. The authorities control the major portion of the city's stocks, which have been built up to such an extent that speculation is a dangerous game. Not only will a greedy merchant stand to lose his shirt by hoarding since the government can, and has demonstrated that it will, dump huge stocks at below market prices, but he will also face criminal charges placed by an officialdom which cannot be bribed.

This promoting and controlling of distribution, however, is only part of the story. The next stage, which is still being developed, is to cut down the number of hands through which food must pass in getting from the farmer to the consumer. Naturally every person who performs a middleman function takes his commission, thus adding to the final bill. Presumably, after the end of the period of New Democracy, the matter will be solved by complete state control.

Meanwhile, several measures designed to reduce the number of middlemen are being undertaken. The various state trading corporations charged with promoting production and distribution buy directly from both the farmers and the manufacturers. In addition to regular

sales to private merchants, they sell directly to cooperatives, labor unions and other such groups.

For instance a farmers' cooperative may sell all or a portion of its food products directly to a trading corporation and receive in return manufactured goods which the cooperative's members need or desire. Likewise, labor unions may buy food and various types of daily necessities directly from a trading corporation.

In the Shanghai area these and other methods are being used to lower distribution costs. A few state corporations have begun direct retail sales to consumers. Also, a number of private stores are now signing contracts with government corporations or even with state and private manufacturers to handle products on a commission basis.

Another function of the state trading companies, which expedites the interflow of commodities between city and village, is the purchasing of commodities from both farmers and manufacturers when such goods cannot be sold in private trade channels. Despite the fact that China is a country of great need and that traditionally there is usually a shortage of most things, the state trading corporations have found that frequently, because of the general disorganization of trade, the desire of middlemen to stall in the hope of a price drop or because of some other artificial reason, a village cannot sell its vegetables or a city factory cannot sell its cotton cloth.

In such a case the trading corporation will step in and buy the unsalable goods at a price guaranteeing a profit to the producer. The state corporations have not yet found themselves stuck with goods for which there is no market.

* * *

IN Peking the government has carried out its program of ensuring adequate distribution to the greatest extent. The city now has a total of 400 government stores selling such daily necessities as food, cloth, coal and salt at prices averaging seven or eight percent below prevailing market prices.

Indicative of how the Peking authorities have broken up the old control of the middlemen and manipulative merchants can be seen in the fact that the city has the largest grain reserves in its modern history—six months' supply, as compared with an average of one month under the KMT. What's more, up to 90 percent of the grain is in government hands, rather than in the hands of wholesalers, middlemen, speculators and retail shops.

Press dispatches report that while legitimate retail merchants are continuing—with a somewhat lowered margin of profit—the hoarders, speculators and middlemen have virtually been eliminated. Many members of these classes, it is said, are going into small scale manufacturing.

What these activities of the government demonstrate beyond doubt is that in the past a large part of the food shortage was directly caused by unnecessary factors such as poor administration, official stupidity and cupidity and the greed of merchants (frequently associated with the bureaucratic capitalists) who rigged the market to their own advantage. By developing an efficient system of distribution, the new authorities have shown that even in a bad year such as this one, China's available food can go much further than was previously supposed.

* * *

WHILE it is obvious that food is not abundant this year since there are known to be serious shortages in several areas devastated by floods and other calamaties, there are indications that there will be enough to go around.

The month of March saw wholesale drops in the price of staple grain in most of the major cities of the country, while during the same month figures of government grain stockpiles indicated a gradual increase of reserves.

In Shanghai, which has long been the most difficult city to supply because of its tremendous population of more than 5,000,000, the price of rice remained stationary thoughout the month. In Hankow the price of rice fell by 25 percent and in Sian the price of wheat dropped by 40 percent. In Peking and Tientsin the price of Manchurian kaoliang dropped by 10 percent, while the price of millet dropped by 30 percent.

In Changsha, capital of Hunan, rice dropped in price by 17 percent. In Mukden the average price of grains dropped by 80 percent. Even in the flood areas, prices declined. In Pengpu rice dropped by 11 percent, while in Tsinan wheat fell by seven percent during the month. In Canton there was a rise in the early part of the month, but the last 25 days saw a price drop of 30 percent.

The many accounts of the huge efforts being made to restore the country's river dikes, to dig new irrigation canals and enlarge old ones, to dig wells, to bring new land under cultivation and so on, lead us to believe that next year will be far better. In fact, we might hazard the guess that the country has seen its worst flood season and that, with the reforestation and other long-range conservation plans already being started, China will before long have much more control over the forces of nature than ever before seemed possible.

The government's goal, we understand, is self-sufficiency in rice—the critical crop—in three years. All indications point to the plan being accomplished on schedule.

SCIENTISTS' NEW ROLE

ONE of the changes which liberation brought to Nanking, the old Kuomintang capital, was freedom for the city's thousands of scientists and scientific workers to make real use of their talents. Although feudalistic in its outlook and approach to the country's problems, the Chiang Kai-shek clique did perceive the potential danger which the nation's body of advanced scholars might well present.

The Academia Sinica, supposed to be the repository of all knowledge, was kept under close surveillance and the activities of all its members carefully watched. Although housed in impressive

buildings, its funds were restricted and the amount of work it could undertake limited. Similar situations existed in respect to the government-supported universities located in the city.

Academic research was encouraged so long as it did not go beyond "pure" research and try to draw any "dangerous" conclusions. Experimentation was not heavily frowned upon so long as it never got beyond the laboratory or "model" stage, providing, of course, that such experiments didn't cost too much.

Despite these limitations the thing the Kuomintang feared was bound to happen. Any serious study along economic, social, political or allied lines could only lead the student to the conclusion that China needed a new government. Equally "unpleasant" reactions were bound to follow any careful study in other fields. Investigation of government administration, agricultural problems, conservation of resources, fiscal policy, industrial planning and so on could only reveal how unnecessary were the deplorable conditions of the country.

Therefore, the Kuomintang expended quite a bit of effort in collecting scholars in the national capital where they could be carefully supervised.

Since liberation, according to press dispatches, Nanking's scientists have been having a field day. Investigation teams, practical demonstration teams, medical teams and so on have been sent out to carry on practical work. For the first time the city's scientific workers are able to apply their stored up knowledge.

Several teams of geologists are in the field. Already a number of important discoveries have been made in nearby areas. Potassium alum, valuable ingredient for the fertilizer industry, has been found near Nanking. Bentonite, useful in the oil industry, has been found in north Anhwei, while large quantities of vermiculite have been found in Shantung.

One group of scientists from Nanking is searching the furthermost sections of Manchuria for iron, copper, lead and other important metals. Other groups are in the field carrying out investigations in remote areas never before surveyed. Some groups of scientists have entered factories where they have set up lecture courses for workers' night schools. Others are engaged in practical work in the factories, seeking to aid in improving technique and quality and quantity of output.

Groups of agricultural scientists have gone into the countryside teaching the peasants improved methods of cultivation, while medical workers are making the rounds of factories and farms giving advice and treatment to workers and farmers.

With the government now providing funds and taking an active interest in their work, Nanking's estimated 4,000 scientists, who led a hot house existence under the KMT, are now able for the first time to engage in full scale research and to make a practical application of their knowledge. The contrast with the old days is great. As one professor of Nanking University put it, "the scientists did nothing under the Kuomintang but call their annual meeting."

25 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Whampao Military Academy

April 4, 1925

The Kuomintang Military Academy at Whampoa, Kwangtung, subsidized by the Soviet Commission in Canton City, received a batch of new recruits from Shanghai on March 18, and they have all been sent to the institution after a brief stay at Canton. At the beginning, the Academy had but 550 cadets, and since its opening two years ago, more than 4,500 mostly Manchurians and Northerners, have gone through its six-months' course of military and Bolshevist training. According to impartial reports from the East River districts of Kwangtung, the Kuomintang cadets have taken an important part in the recent defeat of General Chen Chiung-ming's anti-Bolshevists in the eastern front; and the discipline and morale of the cadet corps were the best ever in Kwangtung internecine war battles. With the aid of modern artillery companies commanded by instructors of the Kuomintang Military Academy, the cadets, it is said, were responsible for the first capture of Pingshan, a point near Waichow which has since then changed hands several times.

Canton Butchers' Guild

The suspension of business on the part of the Butchers' Guild of the City of Canton as a protest against unreasonable interference with the trade of its members by health inspectors since March 24, has not been ended, despite the assurance of the Canton Mayor to look into the complaint. According to the allegation of the butchers, the local food inspectors have abused their power and imposed heavy fines in order to raise funds for the expenses of the Department of Public Health which has not received any appropriations from the government for some time. The butchers assert that they more than any one else desire the prevention of impure food on the market as a policy but insist on the former practice of taking questionable articles to the public analyst for examination. The butchers are asking for the punishment of offensive inspectors and are threatening to call on the hog market to seal its scale, which means that no more hogs will be supplied and all pork shops in the neighborhood as well as the city will have to close down as a protest against unpopular government acts.

10 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Judd and Wang Ching-wei

April 6, 1940

Dr. Walter H. Judd, who was chief surgeon of a mission hospital located in war-torn Shansi Province for many months and who later went to the United States, recently made an interesting statement about Wang Ching-wei in the **New York World-Telegram**. The articles were written by Jack Foster, staff writer, who also spent considerable time in China.

"But what about Wang Ching-wei?" Dr. Judd was asked.

"Perhaps he is a traitor. That may be true, but I'm not so sure," Dr. Judd replied. "Wang is wise and shrewd and he is Chinese. Perhaps he believes that the greatest strategy is to stop this destructive warfare immediately before the nation is exhausted. Then he forsees, perhaps, a long period of secret rearming in the interior at the end of which time an indomitable China would be ready to attack again."

In concluding his interview, Dr. Judd said that it "simply was not in keeping with the Chinese character to be a traitor to his home. . . . What would his descendants say? . . . They would be covered with shame if, in looking back, they should find a traitor among their ancestors And the opinion of his ancestors is of paramount importance to every Chinese."

The interview, of which the foregoing was a part, appeared in the New York newspaper on February 5.

Franco's Spain

Little is known of the fate which awaits Spanish citizens arrested by the state police or the private agents of the Phalangist (fascist) movement, states a report from Madrid by the **No-Frontier News Service**, a Socialist news bulletin published in the USA which has correspondents in various parts of the world. The Spanish newspapers say nothing about the sentences pronounced against men and women arrested by Franco's police on political grounds. . . .

New Deal in a Christian University

The writer, a Canadian professor in Chengtu's West China Union University, describes the many new changes which liberation has brought to the campus.

THIS last month has been full of experiences where I, along with all others here, have been learning to participate in democratic processes. Sometimes I feel a wave of consciousness that in the past we just haven't known what democracy really is. And I now seem stuck to find words to describe this new consciousness.

The first thing is that there have been innumerable meetings where everybody has full opportunity to say anything and all that he wants to say. And no one feels that he will be penalized for saying anything, for if criticism of anyone or any policy brought any kind of reprisal he could tell that openly and there would be a wave of criticism against the one who acted in reprisal. No, everyone just has to take it. And there have been many who have had to listen patiently to criticism. Sometimes that criticizer will be openly criticized for not limiting his criticism to objective facts, for having personal prejudice.

Hours of Discussion

Each department in the University, for instance, has spent hours and hours discussing curriculum and methods and organization, and in making out recommendations to the college or the University. The content and teaching method of each course was reviewed and it was determined whether it should be a required course or an elective. For instance, in the English Department the course "Bible as Literature"—at first they were all for taking it off the required list. But then in the discussion it came out that the teaching method resulted in its being very uninteresting, and that the Bible has had such tremendous influence on English literature, and so on. The final result was that it was made a required course but it was to be taught in a certain way. The same process went on in the Education Department meetings which I attended —hours and hours in frank, objective evaluation.

The government representatives who have been living at the University these last six weeks have contributed wonderfully to us in helping us to learn democratic processes and to adopt objective, selfless attitudes. They themselves have been examples to be followed — in their respect for every person as a person, in their friendly attitude to everyone, in their eagerness to understand all the factors in any problem, in their insistence that everything be worked out democratically without alienating any group, in their simple living.

Of course it was impossible for a representative to attend every meeting of every organization, but at every large or important meeting they were always there. Usually they listened without comment; occasionally they talked. They never alienated anyone. They had so many concrete suggestions to make, not so much as to *what* to decide on as to *how* to decide. For instance, in one university committee there was an absolute split between students and staff in regard to tuition fees. The representative, after the discussion had reached an impasse, suggested that the whole group divide into small groups for discussion, for 15 minutes; then, if they could reach no unanimous conclusion, the matter be tabled for that day. But when they came back from group discussion, the whole group reached agreement quite quickly.

Group Criticism

One special technique which the Communists have brought is now used widely: group criticism. For instance, in the Department of Education one evening, they took the student department officers of the last term and dealt with them one by one. The one in question would first say where he or she thought he had failed in his work for that office. Then anyone in the group would bring up good points and bad points about him. Some of them he would regard as unfair and would give reasons. Others he would acknowledge at once were fair criticisms. Occasionally a criticism would be based on personal prejudice and at once someone else would point out that fact. When attitudes were not objective, it would be noted and stressed that "truth can be arrived at only from objective facts." That is one of the main points of Marx' dialectic materialism, which is now on everyone's lips. The amazing thing is that the individual criticized does not seem to have his feelings hurt! Since all are regarding him objectively, he is helped to look "objectively" at himself. Surely that is the basic attitude of the Christian!

Perhaps the most difficult question to decide is: who has the controlling authority in department, college, University? And how do you decide who has it? The Administrative Council in the early days of liberation decided that the General Faculty would be enlarged to include a certain number of student representatives. The student reaction: who is the Administrative Council to make any such decision? The president appointed certain staff members as representatives to attend some meeting. The staff reaction: how can they represent the University if they are appointed by the president? After the department meetings where many recommendations for changes were passed, the colleges had big meetings. At the Arts College meeting, we were discussing recommendations and voting on them, when a student raised the question of whether that meeting had the power to decide. There was a long discussion of that question and finally it was decided that power would be in a College Executive Committee with representatives from the faculty, from the students, and from the workers (servants). The proportion of each, I believe, has not yet been worked out.

That is the pattern everywhere. It is recognized that every group connected with an organization should be represented on its controlling body.

University Authority

The University organization is much more complex, but it is slowly being worked out. It not only has to represent the different groups: professors, instructors, assistants, office workers, students, workers, but it has to represent the different colleges: Arts, Science, Medicine, Dentistry. When finally constituted it will have final authority in all matters in running the University. The president will no longer be an autocrat, but an executive secretary taking orders from this committee. This type of organization is what is called here "democratic centralism." There is the widest possible discussion of issues. Groups democratically elect representatives to a central committee which has the complete administrative power.

In the University the students have worked out their organization and elected their central committee; so have all the staff. The organization which the staff worked out was interesting: each of the following groups in each of the four colleges elected one representative to the central committee: professors, instructors, assistants, office staff. Four similar groups in the general university (non-college) staff elected one each. Then in the general staff meeting each of these groups, without respect to college, elected one. This makes a central committee of 24. Of these 24 only two are not progressive (though none are communists — because there were no communists on our faculty). Many of them are fine Christians. The meeting for election was attended by 330 members of the staff, out of a total of 370! Some of the missing 40 were on duty, some away, some sick—*very* few just absented themselves. The Communist representatives were delighted with the whole election, not only because they like the people who got in, but because the process was good.

I do not see why we in the west leave it to Communists to initiate all these fine democratic processes. Why cannot we be just as democratic? Why cannot our schools and colleges be run like this? And think what it would mean in educational outcomes.

This same kind of thing is going on in every organization and every factory here. Of course it takes time, especially in the initial stages, but the results! — in regard for the individual person, in group spirit, in cooperation, in efficiency, in self-respect! These are things that Christianity has been working for *in theory*, but theory and practice have been divorced. That is one of the

chief criticisms of Christianity by the Communists. Even in our *churches* we have not had this thorough democratic process and practice!

Facts Decide

The only school that has not been undergoing big changes is our Senior Middle School for boys in Chungking of which Mr. Ho Chin-fu is principal. They already had a central committee with student and teacher representatives. They already had finances "open"—the central committee thoroughly discussed the budget, as they did all other matters. They already had no repressive rules that must be obeyed or punishment would ensue. In that school there has been no punishment. In their meetings they do not take a vote and decide by majority against minority; if there is not a consensus the matter is discussed further or dropped—for facts decide, not prejudice or self-interest.

At the end of last term, in the middle of January, every school including the University was faced with a student demand that there be no examinations. The reason given was that the term had been too upset, too many classes lost, too little work covered, especially after the mid-term examinations. It was interesting the different ways schools dealt with the question. "We discussed the matter thoroughly with the students and told them many good reasons why they should take examinations but they wouldn't listen." "We thought it better just to accede to the students' requests." "We went to the government and asked them what to do and they said that under the circumstances it would be better perhaps not to force the students to take examinations so we had none."

Mr. Ho dealt with the matter in his typical way. He told the students to continue their shouting for no examinations. He encouraged them to use all possible methods to advocate no examinations. Then he called together the students' central committee and all the teachers (a larger body than their central school committee) and discussed the question.

At first the students were a bloc opposing examinations. Mr. Ho asked them why. They gave a number of reasons which he knew were not the real reasons. Finally it came out and the students all agreed that the real reason was that they were afraid they would fail. In the discussion they agreed that if they did not have this fear they wouldn't mind taking examinations.

Then Mr. Ho asked them what good examinations were anyway. He got all the reasons they could think of and put them down, such as: encourages to study, check on teachers, necessary for a grade when transferring to another school, and many more. Then he said: "Let's put down all the reasons you can think of *against* examinations." And they suggested many.

Then he said, "Now is there anyway to achieve these good things without having examinations?" And they could not think of any way. "Is there any way that we could have examinations and avoid these bad things?" Yes, there were many suggestions as to how that could be done—the type of examination, way of marking, who marks, and so on. To solve the question of fear of failure, they decided that no more than 10 percent would fail and the marks would be adjusted to this standard. So the whole school went ahead and had their examinations—though the Wen Deh girls school nearby followed the suggestion of the Communist representative that they do not force the students to take examinations.

Public Accounting

One Saturday afternoon three weeks ago was taken up with a unique event. The gymnasium was crowded with staff and students. It was managed by the student association of the University. The individual concerned would like very much to have avoided being present, but he was told by the Communist representative that if he did not appear he would be arrested! Two students stayed with him from early morning and brought him to the meeting. He was Kiang Wen-gang, the head of the Philosophy and History Department of our University.

It was pretty gruelling for him, but I must say I think he deserved it all. Student after student stood up and gave counts against him—all kinds of things from very poor and lazy teaching to being involved in the deaths of two people: he has been a leader in the Youth Party; he has reactionary teachers in his department; he refused to do anything to get Miss Mao, a student in his department who was murdered by the Chiang-Wang gang just before they left, out of prison after she was arrested for having a Communist booklet in her purse; he had become involved with a wife of Yang Sen (Tsai Wen-la) when she was a student in his department, which was one factor in her being murdered by her husband. In other words he was a disgrace to a Christian university! But he was a political figure.

Thank God the Communists have liberated us from the repression and corruption and rottenness of that old Kuomintang regime! There are those in America who wonder if we can now "maintain the Christian character" of the institution who never worried when the Christian character was all but squeezed out during the previous years!

Kiang was given ample opportunity to answer any of the charges. But how could he? Everything was true. So all he could do was to palaver some abject penitence. The Communist representative made a good summing up speech. He pointed out that under the old regime such a person as this would have been summarily executed, but that that was not the method that was now to be used. He said that all they wanted was for Mr. Kiang to realize his mistakes of the past and begin a new life. He recommended to him that he go home and bow in worship before Truth.

Kiang has resigned from the headship of the department, and I think he has left the University entirely. I don't suppose any students would agree to take a course from him.

Governor Wang

The old fascist governor, who won the hatred of all classes, has really been caught now. I previously wrote (see *Review*, March 4, 1950) that he had been caught around Christmas time, and then released a few days later. He has been in hiding, and then in disguise tried to make his way down river. But he was recognized and arrested on a ship between Luhsien and Chungking. He will have a real "public trial" and the verdict, I imagine, will be rather different from just being told to go home and worship Truth!

— *EARL WILLMOTT*

Overnight Wagon Station in North China—Wang Chie

The story of a soldier

CAPTAIN KUAN

by Chu Ting (朱 定)

Translated by Ch'en Yao-kuang (陳堯光)

"CAPTAIN Kuan of the Third Company is an excellent soldier," the Political Commissar of the regiment told me, "and an excellent party member too. But his cultural standard is a bit low. Now that you're going to be the clerk of the Company you should study him attentively, learn from him and get rid of your intellectualism. At the same time you can help him in cultural matters. That'll do the both of you good."

I promised and left.

The next day I arrived at the Third Company.

The Company, having just returned from recently-liberated Hangchow, was stationed temporarily in a temple by the highway, awaiting orders. I entered the temple and found a correspondent attached to the Company who took me to a room at the end of the porch. I supposed it had been used as a store-room. It still contained some dilapidated desks, stools and incense tables, helter-skelter. In one corner, a dismembered statue of Buddha leaned against the wall, a broken whipstock in its hand.

A space about ten feet square had been cleared of junk and now contained a bundle of straw that served as a mattress and an ancient table with only three legs. The fourth corner was propped up with a stick. The table was evidently used as a work-desk and on it lay a telephone and a military map. This was the Company's office.

"Please wait here a moment," the correspondent said. He pushed out a dusty stool with his foot. "Take a seat. The Captain is in the infirmary. I'll go let him know you've come."

I put down my luggage, perched myself on the rickety stool and waited somewhat anxiously. Before I received my assignment to the Third Company, I had heard almost too much about Captain Kuan. In the Regiment he was a model captain, and the fame of his heroic exploits had spread everywhere. The most difficult tasks usually fell upon the shoulders of the Third Company. In the Yangtze River crossing, the Third Company undertook a surprise attack which smashed three of the enemy's defense lines and enabled the regiment to cross the river with little hindrance. So I had great respect for the Company and its leader, Captain Kuan, and felt honored by my assignment.

Almost an hour passed before I heard footsteps in the courtyard, and the correspondent entered with a man of about 30, of average height but thin as a rail. After a first glance I noticed his thick eyebrows and a long scar near one eye. I knew it was Captain Kuan.

I stood up at once, but feeling embarrassed I couldn't utter a word. Before I could manage to say something, he quickly stepped forward and held my hand tightly in both of his. In Mandarin, with a Shensi accent, he said:

"Comrade Chu, you're here at last." Turning to the correspondent, he said, "Comrade Wang, please bring a couple of bundles of straw." Then he bent down to untie my luggage.

"Oh, please don't bother, I'll do it myself," I stuttered awkwardly and stretched out my arm to prevent him.

"We don't stand on ceremony. We're all comrades, aren't we?" he replied, and smiled warmly, the scar squeezed out of shape by the muscles of his cheek.

We undid my luggage together. I had put some books into my roll, among them *The Reform of the Intellegentsia* and the *History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union*. He picked up the latter and glanced over it, and with an eager smile he said to me, "With your help, I'll be able to read a lot more!"

"I'll be glad to help," I said nervously, though somewhat reassured by his honest smile.

The correspondent then appeared with two large bundles of straw, and he and the Captain helped me in spreading it out on the floor for my bed. Captain Kuan patted the newly-made, thick mattress and said, "You sleep here near me, Comrade Chu, and we'll have a good talk tonight."

* * *

WE did have a good talk that night. He told me how, from a poor tenant farmer who didn't own even a pair of trousers, with the aid of the Communist Party he had become a self-sufficient farmer; how he had become the cadre of the village, had joined the Army, and from the Northeast had fought to the Yangtze River and across it; and how in 1946 he had become a Party member. . .

"I joined the Communist Party too late," he sighed. "At first, when the landlords were liquidated, I was quite positive about joining. But then came the land redistribution. I received some land, got married, settled down, and . . . well, I got self-satisfied. I was busy all the time with my personal affairs and disregarded any public work. I only tried to make myself comfortable. What a blockhead!"

He sighed again. "About that time, I thought the revolution was over. But I was re-educated, and saw things more clearly. I began to realize that the revolution wasn't only for my own benefit, or for any individual benefit, for that matter. There were still many poor people suffering from cold and hunger, still oppressed just as I used to be.

"Then I started again from the beginning," he went on, "working positively. I became a cadre and then a soldier. After I had gained enough merit in the army, I was permitted to join the Party. The pity is that my cultural standard is too low. I have to be taught everything by others. If only I could pick up a book and read it. . ." He glanced admiringly at the books that made a cushion for my head. "Well, then I wouldn't be so muddle-headed. From today on I want you to help me a great deal with my learning to read," he ended with much emphasis.

I promised to help him, and told him something of my school life. He was very interested, and we talked on until midnight. After that night, we were fast friends.

* * *

COMPANY instructor Ma was quite young, and he and I also became like brothers after our first meeting. We talked hours on end of everything. At that time, a "Learning Words Campaign" was begun in the Third Company, for leisure hours. So Instructor Ma and I thought up a project for this campaign.

We wrote many useful words on small square pieces of paper and pasted them to the articles they named. On a rifle, for instance, we pasted the word "rifle," on a bowl we pasted its name. We wrote the word "father" over a drawing of an old man, and so on.

For Captain Kuan, I planned a kind of "word-series"—linking words together by a strip of paper to make sentences. The first sentence he learned was, "I am Captain Kuan." He had an excellent memory, so he quickly memorized the words. Later on I wrote longer sentences for him, which he studied diligently. His application and the progress he made were astonishing.

At the beginning, he studied only one series of words a day, but soon he was able to learn two or three and more a day. Whenever we came upon him studying, he would smile contentedly. He and the other comrades of the Company incessantly asked us for new words. In this way I became really a part of the Third Company. We were like a big family.

And the truth is, I was very fond of such a revolutionary family, in which individual existence counted for nothing. The whole company, as it were, owned only one collective, compact life. We did everything — eating, drinking, sleeping, studying, playing and drilling—together.

And everyone had an almost indescribable feeling of affection and respect for Captain Kuan. While we were waiting for our orders, he went about the company all day, arrang-

ing sentinels' beats, inspecting all the rifles, even the most brightly polished ones.

Instructor Ma devoted his particular attention to the health of our comrades. Later on, he moved to our room to be near us; and we often heard him get up in the still of the night, to tiptoe to the temple hall to see whether our comrades were warm enough. The nights were cold, and many comrades caught bad colds. We could hear them coughing in the night. So Inspector Ma took good care to see that the sick ones were well covered in their sleep.

We three, sleeping in the same room, talked about everything under the sun. Usually, our talk centered around the problem of reconstructing our thinking, but we didn't neglect the absorbing topics of love and home by any means. As for that, one night Old Kuan, his scar squeezed crooked by a smile, cautiously took from an inside pocket a paper parcel. He unwrapped it, layer after layer, and finally revealed a snapshot of a mother and two small boys.

The boys were plump and looked the picture of health. On the back of the picture was written, crookedly, "To dear papa."

"My wife and two sons," said Old Kuan with fatherly pride, as he put his head to one side and gazed at the picture. "I received it year before last." His contented look made my heart glad too.

"At the rear, I once saw a Soviet movie," said Instructor Ma. "There was a big parade, and the mothers passed the reviewing platform with their babes in their arms. All as plump as butterballs, too."

"Our children will be like that too one day," I interrupted, "Once the reactionaries have been totally wiped out, if everyone does his own part, we'll all have enough to eat and enough to wear."

A nursery in Yenan, by Chen Shu-liang

"Right," said Old Kuan. "You know, before, I couldn't understand that point. But after the Party re-educated me, I realized that not only my own sons, but every child should have a better life. In past years, all were oppressed by the reactionaries, and all suffered from hunger. . ." He sighed and looked at the picture again. "No more of that! Our babies will have better days!"

The three of us lay quietly then, full of our own thoughts, feeling that life was full of hope.

* * *

THE next day, the Company was ordered to march on towards Shanghai.

Since the heavy troops were ahead of us, and resistance was weak, we found it quite calm on the way, and we advanced swiftly. We arrived at the suburbs on the third day. The heavy advance troops were then near the Hungjao Airfield and we were ordered temporarily to do the patrolling in the rear. Old Kuan wasn't pleased by that, and afterwards spoke very little. Yet he still went about, inspecting the rifles so as to be ready for action at any moment. That night passed serenely, the sound of rifles and guns in our ears. I heard Old Kuan move about in the night, restless; I understood how he felt.

Not until day-break did we receive our orders to move toward the right flank to replace the Second Company and attack the enemy. Then Old Kuan grew even more silent. He arranged definite missions for the platoons. He himself was to take the First Platoon, and I, the Second. At that moment we were in close range of the enemy. The sky rumbled with gunfire.

As we reached the Second Company's bulwarks, the sun rose. We clearly saw, at some distance and within the enemy's camp, a big, Western-style red house. It was surrounded by a wall in which several holes had been made to shoot through.

"That's the enemy's base," the lieutenant told me, "Let's go ahead!" And we crept out to the front trench where Old Kuan was contemplating the red building. It looked very solid, built of red brick. Under the gunholes in the wall were heaps of sandbags. The wall was a long one, and behind it was apparently a large garden. We were facing the rear of the house, and heard the enemy's bullets whistle at us.

"Fire the howitzer to smash their machine-gun emplacements first!" The instructor shouted at the top of his lungs to be heard over the continuous rattle of gunfire. But Old Kuan's face hardened into a stony disapproval.

"No, don't fire," he shouted, and his scar, now purple, seemed about to split open. He calmly handed his telescope to Instructor Ma. After one look at the house, Ma cursed and handed the glass to me. I adjusted the focus and looked. I was dumbfounded. I saw, behind a window in the upper story, a large group of children.

Some of the littlest ones were pressing their faces to the pane, flattening their noses, their eyes staring at us in childlike wonder and innocence. Watching them, I felt a hot surge of fury. I couldn't restrain myself: "Damn sons—of—bitches!" I fumed, "Heartless dogs! Lousy stinkers!" Everyone's throat was tight with rage, and his eyes glittered. At that moment, the leader of the Third Platoon crept out of the communications trench.

"Captain! Captain!" he shouted, "That's a school!"

"I know," answered Old Kuan, cold as ice. And then: "Can we break through the line from the front?" he asked.

"We've broken down part of the wall," said the platoon leader. "But they set up a machine-gun on the ground floor, covering the break. There's no cover between the wall and the house. I don't see how we can get through. What'll we do? Shall I phone the rear for some shells?"

Burning with hatred, I handed the telescope back to Old Kuan. He took another look at the house, turned pale, and sat down without saying a word.

"Chang Ta-yu!" Instructor Ma called to the howitzer gunner. "Can you shell the ground floor without hitting the second story?"

"No," the gunner replied, shaking his head. "I've looked at it, but the space is too small. The shells will fall either outside the wall or destroy the house. And anyhow, it's no use to bombard the wall, those turtles have all hid themselves inside the house."

The phone rang, and the correspondent answered. We heard a staccato voice coming over. "Captain," said the correspondent, "the Regiment HQ wants to know if we need artillery reinforcements?" From the pouch at his waist he took a red flag to use in directing artillery fire.

No one said anything. Enemy shells whizzed overhead.

"No," replied Captain Kuan, calmly. "Just tell them we'll make an assault at once!" Then he turned to the Third Platoon leader. "You go back. Concentrate your fire on the break in the wall to attract their attention, and we'll smash in from the rear!"

The Platoon leader nodded and left.

"I'll go," said the Second Platoon leader eagerly, "let me go first!"

"You lead a squad, scatter, and go to the right. I'll take the left with two squads. Old Ma," said Captain Kuan, turning to the instructor, "After we've gone a distance, you follow up with the Third Platoon. And Cheng Teh-ching!"

"Yes, sir," said the heavy machine-gunner, raising his eyes from the sights.

"As we advance, you put out the eyes in the wall."

"Okay," said Cheng Teh-ching.

Finally Old Kuan turned to me. "Old Chu, you wait here. Don't come

forward." I didn't answer. I was greatly disappointed.

"Ready!" Old Kuan said to Cheng Teh-ching. "Open fire when we've gone half way."

And then he leaped out of the trench, the comrades of the Second Platoon following one by one. Then we heard gunfire rattling furiously from the wall. Old Kuan, having crept a short distance, turned his head back and shouted, "Cheng Teh-ching! Be careful! Don't aim too high . . . you might hit the second floor!"

Cheng Teh-ching waved his hand, and then Old Kuan dispersed his men to form a long arc, quickly moving forward.

After about 10 minutes, Old Ma crawled out of the trench with the Third Platoon. Cheng Teh-ching spit on his hands and his machine gun began to crackle—tat-tat-tat-tat — right at the holes in the wall, the bullets sending showers of red flakes from the bricks. I watched with great excitement the creeping human shadows moving toward the wall.

Suddenly the enemy's guns clattered. They had seen our men. The bullets came very low, hissing along the ground directly at us. Cheng Teh-ching grabbed his gun tightly and fired back deafening bursts. His very eyes seemed to be spitting fire. The yellow shadows neared the wall.

Then, a loud explosion, and their machine gun became dumb.

"Gosh!" shouted the correspondent in my ear. He was peering through the telescope. "Bombed him out of house and home! The Captain did it! He's at the wall," he shouted.

Almost as he spoke, we heard a cracking burst of fire and among the shadows at the wall, a cloud of sand and dust sprang up.

"The Captain!" suddenly shouted the correspondent in a wild fright. He dropped the telescope, grabbed up his rifle, and shot out of the trench like a madman. A sharp, sudden chill went through me, and I jumped out after him. All our comrades in the front trenches stood up and then rushed forward, shouting. The Second Platoon had already reached the wall and was climbing it, their carbines cracking.

"Captain, Captain," the correspondent was crying as he ran frenziedly forward. I forgot the bullets flying around me and ran blindly after him. We got to the wall almost at the same time as the Third Platoon. Most of our comrades had already climbed the wall, and within a severe battle was going on. I darted to a place about 20 meters from the sandbags, where Old Kuan lay. His skull was crushed in and his head was bathed in blood. The correspondent stooped down beside him. His face bore an unforgettable expression. I also knelt down. "Old Kuan!" I cried, fearfully. "Old Kuan!" "He's gone!" the correspondent's voice was hollow, like an echo in a dead valley.

"Old Kuan is killed . . . " I stared vaguely, first at him, and then at Old Kuan's body, as if these weren't real.

Yet the facts were there. Old Kuan had been killed by an enemy hand-grenade.

The correspondent burst into bitter tears. He took off his coat and wrapped up Old Kuan's unrecognizable head. We knelt there vacantly. But by then the battle within the wall had already ended. Instructor Ma came hurriedly out through the break, asking "How is the Captain?" In a glance he saw the coat wrapped around the head, with the blood seeping through the thin material. His face turned deathly pale. He gnawed his lips.

"Go back," he said to the correspondent, his eyes overflowing with tears, "report to the Regiment. The enemy's camp has been occupied. Captain Kuan . . . killed!"

The correspondent saluted and left.

"Let's move the body in," Old Ma said to me.

Without saying another word, we lifted the corpse, carried it over to the break in the wall, and placed it on a stone step. The enemy troops had all surrendered and our comrades were disarming them.

* * *

AFTER a little, many comrades drew near us, deep in grief. Finally Old Ma stood up and said, "My dear comrades, our Captain has gloriously sacrificed his life. He would still be alive, but to protect the children upstairs, he took a great risk and was . . . killed by an enemy grenade." He paused to control his emotion, then continued, "He risked his own life for others, for the next generation. . . . Our Captain has shown the spirit of a real Communist. We shall remember him forever! We must learn to model ourselves after him! Let us salute him!"

And we saluted the remains of Old Kuan.

"Now my dear comrades, march on at once!" Old Ma's voice trembled with anger. "March on, and destroy the cruel reactionaries!" Our men moved off, their eyes full of tears.

Old Ma and I went upstairs. We pushed open the door of the middle room, and saw a large group of small children who gazed at us for a minute, as if in wonder. Then the teacher shouted loudly from a corner, "The Liberation Army! The Liberation Army has come!"

The little ones instantly gathered around us, catching hold of our hands, crying and laughing and hopping about. Old Ma bent down and affectionately held a child to his breast, a child with big brown eyes. He pressed his cheek tightly against the child's, round and firm as an apple. And from his overflowing eyes tears fell.

Australia's Wage Fight

In 1939, 540,000 workers were producing goods in Australia; in 1949, 854,000 workers were producing goods—that is, over 300,000 more than in 1939 and in addition each worker was producing 21 percent more than in 1939. Bernard Taft writing in the February 17, 1950 issue of The Guardian from Australia points out that while the workers produced more, they received a thinner share of the total wealth.

* * *

SINCE the beginning of the war in 1939 up to October 1949, the basic wage of Australian workers has gone up from £3/19/- to £6/10/- an increase of 61 percent; but, over the same period, prices rose well over 100 percent.

Official statistics (Monthly Bulletin of Business Statistics, published by the Commonwealth Statistician, No. 146 of November, 1949) give the increase in wholesale prices from pre-war to October 1949 as 94 percent. These figures understate the real increase of retail prices.

The Australian capitalists have made greater profits in the last few years than ever in the history of Australian capitalism.

Where do these increased profits come from? 1) From the many more people who are working now as compared to pre-war figures who are creating goods and wealth —from increased production. 2) From the increased production of the individual worker; the average worker is producing 21.6 percent more today than pre-war.

But what has happened to this wealth?

The bulk of it has gone and continues to go into the pockets of Australia's millionaires. Only a comparatively few crumbs have gone to the workers. If the capitalists are to keep this extra wealth, they must stop the people from bringing wages up to the level of prices, from getting even a small share of the added quantity of goods they produce. Dire consequences are predicted for the people if they attempt to raise wages. All sorts of arguments are advanced, often contradictory, such as—the economy cannot stand it; production is too small, profits are too low; and the now famous argument—"increased wages are no good, as they will only send prices up and thus cause inflation."

We have already seen that prices have increased considerably more than wages. Moreover, while wages were pegged in February 1942, it was not until October 1946, after the Transport strike that there was any wage increase (7/-) other than cost of living adjustments. Prices rose all the time—wages followed, inadequately.

We must understand that the inflation of the currency is not due to increased wages, but that only higher wages will enable the workers to catch up a bit with the capitalists. Surely even the capitalist "experts" won't try to explain the galloping inflation of Chiang Kai-shek's regime by the wage level of the Chinese workers.

As long as the capitalists are able to get away with inflating the currency (raising prices), the workers can only protect themselves by raising wages at the same time. If they don't, prices will still go up—but the wealthy will enrich themselves even more at the expense of the people.

CHINA AFFAIRS

NATIONAL

More Reconstruction

EMPHASIS in the comparatively newly liberated areas of Central and South China is being shifted to economic reconstruction and preparatory work for land reform. A resolution of the Military and Administrative Committees for this vast area, which stretches over six provinces from Canton in the southeast to the upper reaches of the Yangtze river and contains a population of about 140,000,000, announces that aside from certain remaining military tasks peace has arrived. Thus, the main emphasis on industrial restoration during the present year will be on light industry such as textiles, oil, flour, paper, sugar, tobacco, pottery, leather and fur. In heavy industry stress will be laid on iron, steel and non-ferrous metals. An increase in agricultural products is anticipated. The products include cotton, tea, peanuts, tung oil, hemp, tobacco, sugar cane and silk. Water conservancy installations on the Yangtze are to be completed this year according to schedule. The resolution of the Military and Administrative Committees, which was ratified by the Government Administration Council, states that in order to insure economic rehabilitation throughout the area, communications, transport and commerce are to be restored without delay. In order to fulfill all necessary tasks, efforts are to be made to complete the organization of the entire working class within the year. Workers' education and welfare work will be carried forward.

Regarding agrarian reform, conditions in Honan province are deemed ripe for commencing with land distribution this spring and the work is to be completed before next spring's sowing. In Hunan, Hupeh, Kiangsi and Kwangtung provinces, preparatory work for land reform is to start immediately and land distribution is slated to start by the winter and be completed before the end of 1951. In Kwangsi province and portions of other provinces agrarian reform for the present is to be confined to rent reduction and reduction of interest. During the year mass organization of the peasants in addition to representative conferences of the peasants is to be undertaken.

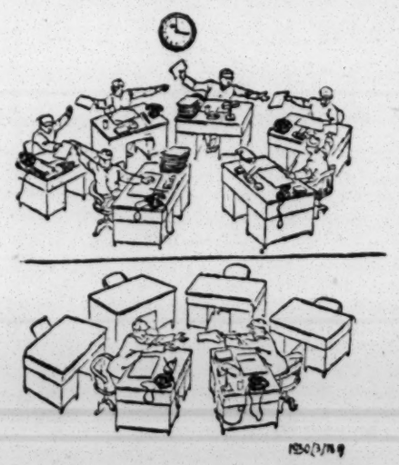
Militarily, the area's first and foremost task during 1950 is to organize the campaign for the liberation of those parts of Hainan island in the hands of the Kuomintang. Meanwhile, to save funds which can be used in construction, one and a half million PLA troops in south and central China are to go into productive work. According to the plan worked out it is hoped that each soldier thus engaged will produce between 75 and 500 kilograms of grain.

With the 1950 plan in mind, educational work is to be stepped up in order to meet the growing need for trained personnel. A reform of the educational system is anticipated and full and part time schools as well as cultural and technical training classes are to be established for workers, peasants, government functionaries, youth and women. Literature, art and science are to be encouraged and social centers for recreation and physical culture will be promoted among the masses.

Parties Pledge Cooperation

NON-PARTY people were urged to keep pace with the Communist Party following the March 25 publication by the Central Committee of the CCP of the directive urging all Communist Party members to strengthen their links with the masses. Chang Lan, Chairman of the China Democratic League, stated that the non-party people meant the four classes: workers, peasants, petty bourgeoisie and national capitalists. He emphasized the point that these people must ask themselves: "Have we actively cooperated with the Communist Party members in caring for the affairs of our state?" Chang Lan also claimed that the Communist Party directive would have an educational effect not only on members of the CCP but on all non-party people and would be of great benefit to the people's cause.

Leading figures of the different democratic parties and groups meanwhile pledged closer unity and cooperation with the CCP. Li Chi-sen, Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang, said, "We democratic parties and groups of the revolutionary united front should review our own work in accordance with the call of the Chinese Communist Party to its members on strengthening their links with the masses." Huang Yen-pei of the Democratic Construction Association in his statement asked, "If even the members of the Communist Party can learn from the non-party people, how can the non-party people fail to learn from the Communist Party?" "Unity and cooperation is not one-sided," said Chang Po-chun of the China Democratic League, "All patriotic democrats should rid themselves of any shortcomings which hinder unity and cooperation." Similar views were expressed by Peng Tse-min of the China Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party; Ma Hsu-lun, Chairman of the China Association for Promoting Democracy, and Hsu Teh-heng, chairman of the Chiu San Society.



This cartoon from the Giefang Rhbao testifies to the benefits accrued from retrenchment in organizations which raises work efficiency.

Sino-Soviet Air Company

THE first day of the month saw the announcement of a 10-year agreement between China and the Soviet Union on the establishment of a Sino-Soviet civil aviation company. This followed the previous week's announcement regarding the setting up of two Sino-Soviet joint stock companies to exploit petroleum and non-ferrous metals in Sinkiang province.

The civil aviation company agreement was signed in Moscow on March 27 and stated that the company will be organized on the basis of equal rights and stocks for the development of China's domestic aviation and for strengthening the economic cooperation between China and the Soviet Union. The agreement stipulated that the two air lines under the new company are to be organized and operated from Peking to China and from Peking to Ilkusk and Ilamoto. All running expenses and profits of the company are to be divided equally between the two contracting parties. The leading positions of the company shall be assumed by the representatives of both parties alternately.

Further provisions of the agreement were: During the first two years of activity the director of the management committee shall be chosen from among Chinese representatives and the deputy director from among Soviet representatives. The general manager shall be a Soviet citizen and the vice-general manager a Chinese. After two years the leading positions held by citizens of one country shall be interchanged with the other. The staff members of the company shall be chosen from among the citizens of the two countries.

The parleys for the signing of the agreement were conducted in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. The agreement was signed by Wang Chia-hsiang, plenipotentiary representative and Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of the Chinese People's Republic and Andrei Vyshinsky, plenipotentiary representative and Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union.

KMT Blows Up Planes

KUOMINTANG time bombs wrecked seven planes belonging to the China National Aviation Corporation, one of the two commercial airlines which went over to the People's government about six months ago. No one was injured in the explosion which affected seven of the 71 American manu-

Articles of Interest:

America's Role in Asia

Bitter criticism of US policy towards Asia has broken out in the Chinese press as a result of US Secretary of State Acheson's March 15 statement. His claim that the policy of the American government has been to further the national independence movements in Asia is indignantly refuted by the press which refers to the history of China over the last hundred years until liberation as a period of "Anglo-American colonial and imperialist expansionism."

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THE present policy of the United States towards Asia is frankly labelled "aggressive" by the Chinese press; reference is made to the shipment of arms to Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and India for the subduing of the national liberation movements in these countries, and of continued and accelerated aid from the United States to the "Kuomintang remnants on Taiwan," its concern with the formation of an "Asian military alliance," to be "directed chiefly against the new China just as the Atlantic Pact is directed against the Soviet Union." According to these writers, Truman's "Point Four" proposals are "bait for securing political and economic control over Asian countries" in conjunction with military plans. "The price for accepting American aid," one writer remarks, "is very great, as may be proved by the Marshall Plan in Europe. To obtain US dollars, a country must participate in the bloc controlled by American imperialism and unconditionally sacrifice its own sovereign rights. . "

In the course of an article in the March 17 issue of *Shih Chieh Chih shih* (World Culture), on "America's New Aggressive Moves in Asia," the State Department is accused of appropriating a special fund for espionage activities directed mainly against China and the Soviet Union.

"The American Secretary of State, Dean Acheson," says this article, recently declared before the Senate Appropriation Sub-Committee that out of the US$230,000,000 appropriation of the State Department for 1951, US$36,000,000 would be set aside for "international information and educational activities." "Acheson believes that this US$36,000,000 is worth spending," continues the writer. "He calls it one of the items of expense that can produce the greatest effect in foreign relations. He further claims that such 'information and educational activities' constitute an important arm of US foreign policy." The article reports that Acheson's statement has confirmed a *UP* dispatch of February 17 saying 'The United States is going to intensify her efforts for estranging the relations between the Soviet Union and the Chinese Communists, and between the Soviet Union and other Asian peoples who seem to sympathize with the Kremlin.' "It is obvious enough," is the opinion of *Shih Chieh Chih Shih*, "that this US $36,000,000 will be used for the most part for spy activities, rumor mongering and slander in Asia."

The writer goes on to predict that such activities on the part of the United States will be mainly directed against China, because of "China's vital position now regarding Southeast Asia." He quotes the State Department's declaration that after the evacuation of American diplomatic personnel from China, the United States still cannot forget China with her 475,000,000 population. He continues: "The United States is actively setting up a spy net around China, and will assign 129 veteran special service men for the collection of intelligence reports and other subversive and sabotage activities."

In the opinion of this writer, "The nucleus of the spy net will be located in Hongkong in view of the latter's close proximity to China . . . "

This article accuses the United States of using the "Tito group" as a tool in espionage activities designed to undermine the national liberation movements in Asia. "Ordinary politicans of the Anglo-American bourgeois class," the writer elaborates, "even though calling themselves 'socialists' can be easily enough recognized as imperialists and enemies of national liberation—but it is a different thing with the Tito group, who have a 'Communist Party' and a 'Socialist Government' in Yugoslavia. So it is hoped by the United States that since the Communist Parties in the various countries of Asia are geographically remote from Europe, they may therefore be deceived about the nature of the nasty struggle of Tito's group with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies."

The writer of this article alleges that the "Tito group" is building an anti-Communist center in India with the Yugoslav Embassy in New Delhi assigned to carry out espionage activities. "From this center," he claims, "agents will be sent to other countries for propagandist and publicity work against the Soviet Union, the promotion of narrow nationalism among the bourgeoisie combined with the attempted undermining of proletarian internationalism, in the various countries of Asia." He considers "this plot is perfectly consistent with the United States policy of disrupting friendly relations between the Soviet Union and the people of Asia."

factured planes belonging to CNAC now grounded in Hongkong.

Although a Hongkong court recently ruled that the People's Government was the legal owner of the planes belonging to CNAC they have not been allowed to fly back to China because of an appeal lodged against the ruling.

Chou Protests

FOLLOWING the bombing, which occurred on April 2, Premier Chou En-lai issued the following statement: "The Hongkong government must assume full responsibility for the destruction of seven civil aviation planes of China within the military controlled area of the Hongkong government, guarded by Hongkong police.

"Since the Central People's Government of China instructed the general managers of the China National Aviation Corporation and the Central Air Transport Corporation, Liu Ching-yih and Chen Tso-ling, to go to Hongkong on January 13 of this year to take over the assets of the two corporations, the Hongkong government on one hand has prevented the planes belonging to the two corporations from flying back to China and on the other has failed to give the planes due protection, resulting in their destruction by KMT bandits. Therefore, the Hongkong government must assume full responsibility for the losses sustained by China and must forthwith hand over all the assets of the two air corporations in Hongkong to the personnel entrusted by the Civil Aviation Bureau of the Central People's Government.

"The Hongkong government should continue to assume full responsibility for protecting the planes as well as all other assets of the two corporations as long as they remain in Hongkong."

Demoralized KMT Troops

REPORTS from liberated sections of Hainan island reveal the state of demoralization of the Kuomintang soldiery in the as yet non-liberated areas. Towns still occupied by the KMT are said to be overrun by troops who have been driven off the mainland by the PLA. No semblance of discipline remains among these KMT remnants and they no longer resemble an army but can only be categorized as armed mobs who terrorize towns and roam the countryside in search of anything they can steal to eat or sell. The people of these areas are being forced at pistol point to sell their produce in return for worthless bundles of paper—the so-called Kuomintang "Silver Dollar" notes. The same reports state that robbery in Hainan is commonplace. KMT soldiers are under orders to find their own means of subsistence. Soldiers travel in bands looting and openly selling stolen property on the streets. It is unsafe for civilians to traverse the streets and highways and the crops in the surburbs of the various cities are being taken and carted away by the KMT troops.

Meanwhile, the people of Hainan are being methodically ground down by ruinous taxes and levies. Workers, peasants and students are being rounded up by the thousands by press-gangs and in turn are a source of profit for KMT officers. One system used is to offer those caught by the press-gangs their freedom in exchange for money. Some people have been grabbed more than once, ruined and then finally taken by the gangs. At the same time, destruction of the natural resources of the island is taking place. Trees are being chopped down, timber taken and even houses are destroyed in order to provide the Kuomintang with its "Po Ling Defense Line". The coast of Hainan has been declared blockaded and fishermen who go out to fish rather than face starvation, are being shot at by KMT patrols and planes.

Indian Ambassador

FORMAL diplomatic recognition has been concluded between the Chinese government and the Indian government with China agreeing to the appointment of Sardar K. M. Panikkar as the Indian Ambassador while the Indian government has accepted General Yuan Chung-hsin as Ambassador to India.

General Yuan, who is known to be a man of considerable political experience, was temporary Political Commissioner of the Nanking Garrison Headquarters in Nanking last May and carried on negotiations with the British authorities regarding the incident on the Yangtze river involving the British warship Amethyst. He also was Garrison Commander and Political commissioner of Nanking from last August until January of this year.

Mr. Panikkar was the former Indian Ambassador to the Kuomintang government in Nanking.

The completion of negotiations came after the Indian government on December 31, 1949 declared its desire to establish diplomatic relations with the Chinese People's Republic. Minister of Foreign Affairs Chou En-lai replied to Indian Foreign Minister Nehru on January 4, expressing the same desire and inviting the Indian government to send its representative to Peking to discuss preliminary and procedural matters concerning the establishment of diplomatic relations. Mr. A. K. Sen, Charge d'Affaires ad interim, sent by the Indian government for the purpose of discussion, arrived in Peking on February 13.

SHANGHAI

Business Registration

LONG accustomed to chaotic commerce and fly-by-night enterprises, Shanghai is getting set for a thorough registration of all industrial and commercial enterprises in the city. The measures, announced on March 31, have been enacted to bring some semblance of order to the looseness of past conditions and to ascertain the actual conditions in existence, protect lawful enterprises and develop a new economy for the city.

Sheng Pei-hua, deputy mayor of Shanghai, commenting on the significance of the new move pointed out that such an action lays the foundation for the regulation of the national economy. Through the information obtained as to supplies of raw material, marketing and labor conditions, and technical equipment and installations, coordinated with its financial and economic policies, the government will work out schemes for the joint rehabilitation and recovery of both state and private enterprises. The registration of industrial and commercial enterprises in Shanghai, the vice-mayor stated, should be supported by all businessmen in the city.

KMT Rings Smashed

SHANGHAI was the scene of the smashing of two KMT espionage organizations which were acting on orders from Choushan island. More than 20 persons were involved. It was revealed that their activities covered a wide area in the East China zone which ranged from Anhwei in the west, Kiangsu in the east and Chekiang in the south. One of the groups was led by the former magistrate of I-hsing hsien who had a notorious record. This man, Tao Hong-ping, and his henchmen slipped into Shanghai from Choushan early in 1950 and began terroristic activities in south Kiangsu.

Tao and his accomplices were rounded up in a lightning raid by the Shanghai authorities. A large number of weapons were captured in addition to seals bearing inscriptions such as, "People's Anti-Communist Self-Defense Army of Kiangsu," "Chief of the First Administration Area of Kiangsu" and "I-hsing Magistrate's Office." Working in cooperation with the Public Security Bureau of south Kiangsu, the local authorities proceeded to arrest other persons involved. Of those involved, including a KMT battalion commander and other officers of the "Tungnan People's Anti-Communist Salvation Army," ringleader Tao, aged 32, was found to be responsible for the killing of a number of Communist underground workers prior to the liberation of Shanghai. After liberation, Tao escaped with the fleeing KMT to Choushan island and was sent back to this city by the KMT intelligence service in Choushan to engage in subversive activities. Tao was in constant contact with the second gang broken up by Shanghai's authorities. Recently three of the agents of this latter group, disguised as merchants, were ordered to Choushan island to obtain more weapons and funds. However, as the three attempted to go to the island from Woosung they were seized by members of the Shanghai security forces. Shortly after breaking up these two gangs, an organization of former KMT police commissioner of Shanghai, Mao Sen, was smashed. More than 20 people were captured from among this gang which had started its activities just prior to the liberation of Shanghai last May. The majority of those taken into custody confessed their involvement in intelligence work for the KMT.

Bond Sales Success

THE end of March, last day for buying bonds under the government's Victory Bond drive, witnessed Shanghai subscribing to 30,688,492 units. This was an oversubscription of the original target of 30,000,000 units by 2.3 percent. Of the bonds subscribed to, 22,310,000 had already been paid for. A breakdown of the different groups purchasing bonds shows:

	Units
Industrial and commercial circles	27,745,756
Employees and workers	1,474,414
Government organs and PLA units	295,429
Education and youth circles	54,177
Women's circles	34,214
Cultural and art circles	84,542
Professional circles	80,000
Religious and philanthropic circles	37,429
Suburb districts	125,878
Democratic parties and judicial circles	56,469
District bond promotion committees	471,564
Others	176,320
Direct subscription through General Labor Union	52,300

ECONOMIC

Food Distribution

IN LINE with the national policy calling for food distribution, with a view to equalizing the supply throughout China and minimizing the necessity of importing food from abroad, the government has announced plans to unify collection, storage and disposal of public grain. This plan is intended to speed up the process of centralizing control over state grain.

The fixing of levies related to public grain and all regulations governing its collection are to be solely determined by the People's Government. The centralization of control is expected to insure adequate supplies of grain for both the people and the army and go a long way toward stabilizing the grain market all over the country. All public grain is to be delivered to public granaries and stored by the grain administrative departments under the direct control of the Ministry of Finance.

According to the *New China News Agency*, the use and disposal of all public grain is to be under the control of the Ministry of Finance. Local use is limited to providing allowances for troops, government personnel and students receiving state grants; famine relief; support for disabled soldiers and their families and for expenses incurred in water conservancy work. Surpluses will be used to supply the market and recall currency. Under the present plan all local grain administrative departments at all levels are required to report monthly on public grain collections and allocations in their respective areas.

* * *

AFTER collecting most of the public grain the government finds itself in possession of huge quantities and aside from the need to supply troops and other government personnel there is a surplus of 4,510,000 tons to add to the market supplies. The Peking organ of the China Democratic League, the *Peking Kwang Ming Daily*, editorially stated: "With this

quantity, the government has enough to supply seven large cities the size of Shanghai for one complete year. The grain is stored along the railway lines and can be used to supply various areas at a moment's notice. Quotations on food prices as announced by state-owned food companies have a decisive effect on the market."

Far more than expectations, reports from different sections of the country reveal that the planned increase of 5,000,000 tons of foodstuffs will be exceeded by more than 200,000 tons. This year is also to see more than 1,000,000 tons of grain shipped from the Northeast to south China. The resumption of railway traffic on the Kiangsi-Chekiang and Hankow-Canton lines means that grain surpluses can be shipped more readily. According to estimates there will be 300,000 tons from Kiangsi and Hunan provinces while 200,000 tons will come out of Szechuen. The same paper ascertains that in view of all these factors there will be no food supply problem for China this year. Its editorial closes on the note that, "With stable food prices, stable prices for other commodities are bound to follow."

Price Drops

FOOD prices in March achieved almost complete stability throughout the country. A survey of market quotations revealed that in many cities there actually was a drop of from five to 40 percent in the nation's staple foods; millet, flour, rice, and kaoliang. This trend was directly traceable to the recent government measures of centralizing the finances and economy of the state along with the nation-wide scheme for a centralized system of supplying grain.

Figures released by the *New China News Agency* on April 1 show that in Shanghai, with a population of more than 5,000,000 the price of rice remained pat for the entire month of March. In Hankow, the price of rice dropped by 25 percent and in Sian the price of wheat went down by 40 percent. In Peking and Tientsin, Manchurian kaoliang dropped 10 percent while the price of millet arriving from the northwest went down by 30 percent. Areas which showed a grain surplus also saw food prices descend despite shipments to less well stocked sections. In Changsha, capital of Hunan, province and famous for its abundant rice crops, the price went down by 17 percent. In Mukden, through which great quantities of Northeastern grain are transported to areas lying south of the Great Wall, the average price of grains registered a drop of 80 percent. Even in those areas victimized by floods, prices fell due to the arrival of large quantities of foodstuffs. In Pengpu, provincial capital of Anhwei, the price of rice dropped 11 percent while in Tsinan, capital of Shantung province, wheat fell by seven percent. In Canton, where food prices jumped at the beginning of March, the market remained steady during the greater part of the month.

Railway Accounts Balanced

FOR the first time in the 82 year history of China's railways, revenue and expenditures have been balanced. The first two and a half months of this year saw this achievement accomplished despite the fact that freight rates were only one-sixth of the rates under the Chiang regime. Meanwhile, January's revenue for railways south of the Great Wall rose 50 percent over that of last September, the best month of 1949, and more than doubled the average monthly revenue of last year.

According to a *New China News Agency* disptach, "The Ministry of Railways has been able to draw more than 20 billion People's Dollars from the revenue during the two months ending March 16 to invest in construction work. This has reversed the 1949 trend when huge subsidies were paid out to most of the railway administrative bureaus in those areas south of the Great Wall in order to cover their deficits." The dispatch also pointed out the sharp contrast with KMT inefficiency when railway budgets were neither worked out nor unified. Referring to the precise budgets which were drawn up and submitted to the Railway Ministry the *NCNA* stated, "this was greatly assisted by new simplified accounting systems based on the scientific railway accounting principles of the Soviet Union, replacing the Kuomintang's old method put forward by American financial personnel and applied to China's railways for 37 years without any amendment."

The unification of China's railway finances was never achieved before for, from its very beginning, each line was independent because in many cases foreign domination used this process as a means of expoloiting China. Under KMT rule, corruption and inefficiency along with foreign control usually killed off any possibility of unified control of the nation's rail revenue.

Former Prostitutes Tell Own Story

In Peking former prostitutes have written and are acting a play telling their own story to packed audiences twice a day; the play, according to a NCNA dispatch from Peking on March, 23, is an extremely moving description of the lives of these women in Peking and what has happened to them since Peking's liberation.

* * *

IN "The Frozen River Has Thawed," there is no plot. The play tries only to bring home the unbelievable hell of brothel life and the equally incredible story of re-education of Peking's prostitutes after the government closed all brothels and arrested all their keepers last November.

One of the leading actresses, in real life, is 17-year old Wu Yu-ling, whose peasant family had to sell her to a landlord during a famine year. Later he sold her for a few ounces of gold to a Peking brothel keeper named Hwang Hsu-ching, who is known to have killed five girls for various reasons—two of whom he buried alive. A livid scar on Wu Yu-ling's forehead and others on her body bear witness to some of the brutalities she has suffered.

As the play unfolds, the utter hopelessness of these girls is borne home. Every man is their enemy. The Kuomintang police are all in the racket; medical inspectors claim their share of pelf for letting the girls rot with disease instead of reporting them; they become useless and are strangled, buried alive, tortured to death by sub-human sadists who own them. Even the lover who helps a girl to escape in order to marry her turns out to be only another slave dealer.

It was no easy matter to get these girls to talk, as their play makes clear. After years in the absolute power of such monsters as Hwang and Black Peony, with police and government officials all in the business and the whole law lined against them, they trusted no one. They feared that if they whispered a word against their ex-owners they would be murdered outright. They did not believe that the government really meant to wipe out prostitution; they did not know how they could live except by prostitution; they had no hope—only fear.

At the Production and Education Institute, these former prostitutes found books to read, good food and comfortable beds, medical workers were freed from other work to concentrate on curing them of veneral disease, regardless of cost to the government. Softened by kindness, one would agree to talk, then another, until the government had enough witnesses to call an "accusation meeting." Once the girls saw some of their ex-colleagues boldly accusing their old procurers and felt that the law could really protect them, the trickle of denunciation became a flood and one after another, the former brothel keepers went from the "accusation meetings" to face the people's court. And one after another the ex-prostitutes sighed with relief and settled down to think about what sort of work they would like to go in for. The institute could then at last begin serious training.

This play was written by some of the former prostitutes to help others understand their lives, problems and the changes liberation had brought them. Its impact was so great that they were asked to stage it in public to help the public understand what was happening to them. The play will end its run soon and the actresses will leave to take up work they have selected. But the brothel keepers accused of inhuman acts by these former prostitutes will have to stay and wait the decision of the people's courts on how they will expiate their crimes.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

THE PACIFIC

British Seek US Help

COORDINATION between the British Commonwealth and the United States was called for in the House of Lords by former Australian Prime Minister Lord Bruce who complained of the lack of leadership at the recent Colombo conference of Commonwealth ministers. In anticipation of the forthcoming May 15th Commonwealth Consultative Committee meeting scheduled for Sydney, the House was told that the Colombo conference was an example of the way in which the tropics seemed to cause British representatives to "drip platitudes and exude the finer sentiments," but nothing more. Consultation with other governments had not "concealed the deficiencies of the British government."

Lord Bruce stated that discussions with the US should be held to coordinate responsibilities in Southeast Asia between the British Commonwealth and America. Referring to Malaya, he claimed that the British government ought to have told all the British nations that the situation there had to be drastically handled and the burden was too great for the British under the present circumstances to undertake alone.

The meeting set to be held in Sydney next month is to take up the subject of economic aid to Southeast Asia. It was felt that with American backing, means would be devised for "useful action" rather than "just talk." This was the prevailing feeling of those who were adopting the line that nothing in the way of action had resulted from the Colombo meeting.

Acheson Urges Aid

APPEARING before a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Dr. Philip Jessup, Ambassador-at-Large, both urged increased American aid to the countries of Southeast Asia. The opinion expressed by both men was said to have been based on the theory that increased aid in this area was of vital importance to the United States.

Senator Connally, Committee Chairman, revealed that Jessup had emphasized the vital importance to the US of continuing and stepping up American assistance to the countries of this region where it can add to their determination and ability to resist communist infiltration and to make further progress toward sound economies and firm democratic governments. He also stated that the two and a half hour closed meeting had discussed major US policy moves in China, Taiwan and Southeast Asia. Jessup was reported to have pointed out the necessity of having available a flexible fund for use in the general area of China "when and where the need might develop."

Following his tour of the Far East, Jessup claimed that the countries of Asia were eager to have American experts to help them with their problems. This was in reference to the point four program calling for technical aid to under-developed areas and Jessup stated that unless Congress took quick action there would be a "let down" in Asia. Later, Senator Connally claimed that United Nations participation in the program would not do. Opposing any UN action Connally flatly stated, "The United Nations would mess it up."

Meanwhile, testifying on behalf of the point four program, Acheson said that any cut in the $45,000,000 wanted would have unfortunate results on efforts to check communism in Asia. "Any cut would seriously handicap the undertaking of specific activities which can be effectively organized during the coming year," according to the Secretary of State. At the same time, Acheson stated that the US did not intend to use the program to build large mills, mines and factories in undeveloped areas. He then pointed out that economic development in these areas would bring practical benefits to the US. It would open up sources of needed materials and goods and would provide new markets for American exports.

Hand in hand with plans for Southeast Asia. America intends to permanently hold the Ryukyu islands, according to the present military governor, Major - General Josef R. Sheetz. Replying to the President of the Ryukyu Socialist Party, who asked the American Military Government to clarify certain questions pertaining to the international status of the islands and to the election of a civilian governor, General Sheetz reiterated an earlier statement of Secretary of State Acheson regarding permanent American possession. The general also revealed that not only the election of a governor but also a general election was being carefully considered.

MALAYA

Ineffective Policy

STRONG criticism of the British government's handling of the campaign in Malaya was made in the House of Commons a few days before the Easter recess. Conservative critics were anxious over what they regard as the apparent failure of the present campaign in Malaya and are worried at the remoteness of any satisfactory conclusion to the trouble.

The House of Commons heard a call for the imposition of martial law in Malaya to help counter insurgent activity. A member of the National Liberal Party, Henderson Stewart, stated that the British position in Malaya was worsening and that there was a strong local demand for martial law as the only effective method of controlling the trouble. However, this suggestion was rejected although it was admitted that during recent weeks "insurgent activities had intensified in reaction to our own intensified efforts, but there has been no strong local demand for martial law."

In rejecting the call for martial law it was emphasized that "all the powers necessary can be taken by emergency regulations." Replying to the criticism of British military and civilian circles in Malaya that the strength and equipment of the military forces was inadequate, Colonial Secretary James Griffiths vouched that this factor in Malaya is under constant consideration and every effort will be made to meet the requirements of operations. Meanwhile, talks are taking place in Malaya between the British High Commissioner and local leaders regarding the new constitution. These talks are said to be touching on possible changes, such as the inclusion of Malayan political leaders in the Malayan Executive Council with the status of ministers and in charge of certain administrative departments. It is also considered likely that the proposals under discussion take into account a proposal to include a larger number of local representatives—Malayan, Chinese and Indian—in the Executive Council.

Trade Unionist Freed

A 27-YEAR old South Indian union member, under sentence of death in Malaya for carrying a revolver, was freed. No reason was given by the British Privy Council in London which took the action against the man arrested under a Malayan ordinance making the carrying of firearms a criminal offense punishable by death.

Confined in prison for more than a year the Indian, Sambasivam, was travelling in Johore in September, 1948, looking for work when he was seriously wounded in a fight between two Chinese who were casual companions and three Malayans. Charged with carrying an unlicensed revolver he was sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of Johore on March 22, 1949 after being in a hospital for five months. Included in the testimony against Sambasivam was that of the three Malayans, who described the affair as an "unprovoked attack on them by three Communists."

Rubber Price at Peak

MALAYA'S chief contribution to the British empire, rubber, saw its price attain the highest level in twenty years. Buyers at the end of March were prepared to pay 55¼ Straits cents per pound for rubber to be delivered this month. This was a jump of half a cent over the price they were bidding earlier in the month. The latest advance for this product was attributed to the absence of futher offerings in primary markets from Indonesia which recently carried out a drastic monetary purge to boost its exports and better inquiries from continental buyers.

INDO-CHINA

People's Army Attacks

THE Vietminh People's Army continued to plague French troops in the fighting in Indo-China. The Vietminh *News Agency* reported that artillery fire sank two French ships carrying paratroopers in the Quang Binh and Thua Thien sector.

French reports admitted heavy fighting had broken out in the Cochin-China area although these same reports stated that French losses were light. The French also admitted that two Vietminh People's divisions had launched an offensive and were equipped with modern weapons. Four French battalions were sent to counter the attack. Fighting also broke out in Tongking province. French military communiques stated that a small number of French watch-towers were evacuated or taken by the enemy. The objective of the attacks, the communiques added, appeared to be the blowing up of the French system of posts and watch-towers in the triangle of Tieucan-Caungan-Donhau in the territory near the mouth of the Mekong. Vietminh People's forces were said to have killed two soldiers and four civilians and destroyed 18 vehicles in an ambush between Bienhoa and Dalat about 60 miles from Saigon. The Vietminh troops had arranged a series of ambushes supported by many automatic weapons and mortars. A train was derailed during the attack. Meanwhile, Vietnam troops continued harassing action in the Haiduong area, 40 miles from Hanoi in the Red River delta.

Labor Vows Liberation

THE Vietminh General Workers' Union has issued a manifesto calling for Saigon workers to refuse to unload war materials. Reports from Saigon claim that the Vietminh statement, printed in secret in that city and widely distributed, declared that "workers must refuse to unload ships at Saigon carrying Anglo-American war materials for French and Bao Dai traitors." It added that "our French and Anglo-Australian comrades will refuse to load war materials for Vietnam as they refused to load for the Dutch imperialists in Indonesia." The manifesto appealed to the youth of Saigon to report for duty to their Vietminh district headquarters and urged the students to refuse to collaborate with the puppet regime. The General Workers' Union vowed that, "We shall soon drive the French into the sea as Chinese comrades drove American collaborators and as British colonists will be driven out of Malaya. The day of liberation approaches."

JAPAN

Separate Peace Treaty

THE State Department and the British Foreign Office are now said to be in favor of proceeding with negotiations for a treaty with Japan with or without the participation of the Soviet Union. The forthcoming London meeting may see the British, French and American Foreign Ministers decide on an early conference for such a move.

According to British and American views, the following powers should be invited to send representatives to the Far Eastern peace conference: Australia, Burma, Canada, China, France, India, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, New Zealand, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States. Officials in Washington have stated that if the Soviet Union refused to attend such a peace conference the other powers are expected to go ahead without her.

Australia's Minister for External Affairs has called for a settlement of Japan's peace treaty this year with "all nations who played a direct part in destroying Japanese militarism playing a similar part" in determining its terms. Defining Australian policy toward Japan, Minister Percy Spender declared that his country could not watch with equanimity "the resurrection of a nation so recently fired with military ambition and lust for conquest." He said that while the Japanese people should be allowed their proper place in world trade, Australia must insist that experience had shown the folly of allowing a war potential to be established in Japan.

Japanese CP Leader's Views On Sino-Soviet Treaty

THE Japanese people are destined to find that the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China are the only countries which they really can rely on was a recent conclusion of Kyuichi Tokuda, General Secretary of the Japanese Communist Party.

In reply to the question of the views of the Japanese CP regarding the possibility that Japan's position in Asia would henceforth attract much more attention, since the first article of the Sino-Soviet Treaty stresses measures to be taken against agression on the part of Japan or any other state allied with her, Tokuda said: "The first article delivered a shattering blow at the obstacles to world peace that have been growing in Japan.

"The people, on the other hand, believe that it has contributed tremendously to the coming people's democratic revolution. From now on, the decisive struggle between the two camps in Japan will become more intense. The struggle now has reached its turning point. Either Japan will become a stronghold for the Third World War or she will become an important factor in the advancement of the world revolution. We keenly feel the weight of this responsibility and will make it our business to turn Japan into an important stronghold of world revolution."

INDIA

Premiers to Confer

A CONFERENCE between Pakistan Prime Minister Liaquant Ali Khan and Prime Minister Nehru on the Bengal situation was expected to take place shortly. Both men were said to be anxious to resolve the problem created by communal disturbances in East and West Bengal.

The main task before both ministers is expected to be devising measures to stop the exodus of minorities from either side and to put an end to frequent communal violence and also to find a formula which would insure the implementation of any agreed measures. Latest reports revealed that the influx of Hindu refugees from East Bengal into West Bengal had registered a sharp increase. The number of those coming into India by rail alone was averaging between 15,000 and 20,000 daily.

It was not clear whether the talks would be confined to the Bengal situation only or whether they would also touch upon the wider question of Indo-Pakistan relations. The Indian government failed to comment on the reported British offer to send a neutral elder statesman to smooth over difficulties between India and Pakistan and "see them safely round the corner." Although informed circles in New Delhi were reported to have stated that it was extremely unlikely India would need the services of a British statesman at this juncture, Pakistan Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, just before setting out for his meeting with Nehru, told the Pakistan Parliament in Karachi that "we have been receiving valuable help from the British government in the supply of requirements for the armed forces."

Martial Law Proclaimed

Violence has been the keynote to recent events occurring in India. Following sporadic outbreaks of communal and communist violence in the Calcutta region, martial law was proclaimed in Howrah, a densely populated town near Calcutta. Indian troops with fixed bayonets moved in to cope with disturbances which claimed six lives within 48 hours. Much of the violence was attributed to rising feeling among the population as a result of the large-scale anti-Hindu rioting and killing in East Pakistan and the continued influx of destitutes into Bengal. The area accounted for by martial law covered eight square miles and a population of about 5,000,000.

12 Denied Appeal

IN Hyderabad 12 people, described as Communists, were denied the right to appeal to the Supreme Court of India against the death sentence passed against them last August. The Hyderabad High Court in Decan dismissed their applications. The accused received the death sentence of a special tribunal in the Telegana district of Hyderabad. They were sentenced on charges of murder and abetment of murder and the sentences were then confirmed on appeal by the same Hyderabad High Court.

BRITAIN

Wage Freeze Muddle

LITTLE progress has been made in resolving the dilemma of the Trades Union Congress, which officially supports the government's wage stabilization policy but which is faced with demands for wage increases from about five to eight million members. Engineering and shipbuilding unions which are heading demands for wage hikes will soon vote on whether to strike for a wage increase of one pound weekly or carry their claim before arbitration.

The TUC has urged Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to take action to bring down consumer prices and curb profits of big business. Cripps issued a statement giving the government's argument for the continuation of the wage freeze. In a short formal statement after a brief meeting with the Economic Committee of the TUC Cripps said, "There was a useful exchange of views and it was understood that a further meeting would be held in due course."

CP Head Flays Declaration

HARRY Pollitt, Secretary of the British Communist Party, described as a "farrago of lies and nonsense" Deputy Premier Herbert Morrison's declaration that the Communist Party was a "conspiracy." Pollitt claimed that Morrison was the "architect of the Labor Party's defeat at the General Election." "Purging unions of Communists does not harm the Communists," Pollitt added, "it does harm to the trade unions as many sections of the Transport and General Workers Unions are beginning to find out."

China "Explained"

BRITISH recognition of the Chinese Government was a balancing of all considerations, according to Kenneth Young, new Minister of State of the Foreign Office. This was in answer to a Conservative query in Commons as to whether or not the government had balanced against the problematical benefits the "undoubted dislike" of the action by Australia, New Zealand and Canada. There was also the encouragement given to the Malayan rebels, conservative opinion held.

In reply, Mr. Young stated that there was a division of opinion between different nations about the question of recognition. As for the encouragement which it might have given in Malaya, it was true there had been an increase in insurgent activity, but this was not due to recognition, added Mr. Young. Asked how British interests in the Far East had benefited, Mr. Young replied, "The government's decision to recognize the Central People's Government was based on the facts of the situation in China, which were such as to require recognition according to the standards of international law and practice, and not on a calculation of immediate benefits."

Bevin Invites Acheson

THE United States accepted an invitation from Britain Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin to a Big Three Foreign Ministers' conference and a North Atlantic Council meeting in London. The British, French and US Foreign Ministers were expected to meet in London on May 8. US Secretary of State Dean Acheson is expected to fly to England and will be available for a meeting of the North Atlantic powers in London which it is anticipated will follow the Big Three meeting.

With regard to the Big Three confab it was believed that the ministers would discuss: 1) The relations of the three powers with the Soviet Union, including plans for the international control of atomic energy. 2) German questions, including the economic difficulties of the western sectors of Berlin and the proposal for elections in Germany. 3) The policy of the three powers in Southeast Asia and the Far East in general. 4) The Japanese peace treaty.

British Contribute

A NET expenditure of 299 million pounds for the British army was agreed to by the House of Commons without a vote following War Minister John Strachey's claim that Britain was bending all her efforts to raising her contribution to the defense of Western Europe as rapidly as possible, taking into account other calls made on her. Strachey replied to a query as to the future role of the British army, raised by Emrys Hughes, pacifist Labor left-winger, who stated members of parliament had talked about sending an army to the continent against the potential enemy "which were the Russians with their 120 divisions." Strachey denied that Britain had any thoughts of an attack on the Soviet Union. He stated, "I should have thought the size of the forces which we can raise at this time made any such suggestion extremely unrealistic."

UNITED STATES

Flowing Funds

THE House of Representatives passed by 287 votes to 86, the Foreign Aid Bill, totalling more than US$3,000,000,000, but lopped off US$250,000,000 from aid to Europe, and US$20,000,000 from the requested US$45,000,000 for President Truman's point four program for technical aid to underdeveloped areas. The bill included funds of US$100,000,000 for south Korea and US$103,000,000 unexpended funds for the general area of China.

The House reversed, by 226 to 60, its earlier tentative decision to withdraw Marshall aid from Britain as long as northern Ireland remained attached to the United Kingdom instead of joining the Republic of Eire. The cut in the point four program was inspired by an economy block representing members of both parties. The House action now makes available the money turned over to the President through a US$75,000,000 fund which Congress voted for use in the general area of China last year. The House action which took place on March 31 was expected to be ratified by the Senate before the end of the first week of this month.

Scientific Shuffling

THE US Atomic Energy Commission shuffled its entire program in order to give top priority to the development of a hydrogen bomb, according to a disclosure of the Commission's Acting Chairman.

The Acting Chairman stated that everything was being done to reshuffle the project and the personnel in the whole atomic energy program in order to bring the greatest effort to bear on the specific weapons development work which President Truman had recently directed the Commission to pursue. One aspect of the work was to speed up the development of atomic energy for naval vessels.

China Recognition

A POLL conducted by the Council of Foreign Relations in New York has revealed that 57 perecent of representative bodies in America favored recognition of the People's Government of China on certain conditions.

Seven hundred and twenty leading citizens in 23 American cities were questioned in connection with this poll.

Spies, KMT and Prayers

RUMMAGING for spies in America, Republican Senator McCarthy came up with the charge that Owen Lattimore, wartime adviser to Chiang Kai-shek and expert on China affairs, was the Soviet Union's top spy in the United States. McCarthy has been busy making allegations of Communist infiltration into the State Department which are being investigated by a Senate Foregn Affairs sub-committee.

At the same time the Senator suggested that the Dilowa Hutuhktu, the only "Living Buddha" in America and two other Mongolians brought to study at Johns Hopkins University by Lattimore should be investigated by Federal agents. The Dilowa, a high-ranking priest in the Mongolian Lama hierarchy was reported to have come to America more than a year ago searching for monastic peace. Rallying to Lattimore's defense, the Dilowa declared he was sure Lattimore had nothing to do with Communists.

The high ranking Lama prelate countered McCarthy's charge by informing him of his membership in the Central Committee of the Kuomintang Party. At the same time he remarked, through interpreters, that he was offering up "fierce prayers" for Lattimore. He also said some prayers for his accuser.

* * *

MRS. Franklin D. Roosevelt and some Democratic Senators, in a television show, branded as "utterly ridiculous" Senator McCarthy's charges which, "were blackening the reputation of the US throughout the world."

Meanwhile, in Washington itself, a report by the House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee, on April 1, called for stricter laws to combat spying and treason,

the utmost teamwork in government moves against Communists and closer checks on defense plant workers.

Submarines and Saucers

TWO days after April Fools' Day, a captain of a US destroyer, sent to search for mysterious submarines off the coast of California revealed he had contacted what appeared, "from all indications," to be two U-boats of the latest design. Two days later, Defense Secretary Johnson denied that any foreign submarines had been seen off the US coast. He declared that none had been sighted.

The presence of the periodic "flying saucers" over America's skys were denied by Charles Ross, Press Secretary of President Truman on April 4. According to Ross, neither Truman nor members of his staff knew of the existence of "flying saucers" either as secret weapons of America or of any other country. The Air Force was reported firmly convinced that rumors of the perennial plates were baseless.

Unfair Trial

DISSENTING opinion in the US Supreme Court's upholding the conviction of Communist Party Secretary-General Eugene Dennis for "contempt" of the House Un-American Activities Committee contended that Dennis had not received a fair trial. Justices Frankfurter and Black opined that Dennis' trial has been unfair because the jury included government employees who would face difficulties if they did not go along with the prosecution. Frankfurter stated: "We are living in a time when inroads are being made on the secrecy of the jury room so that, upon failure to agree, jurors are subjected to harassment."

Black, in his dissenting opinion, said: "The prevailing pattern of loyalty investigations and the threatened purges make it wholly unrealistic to expect government employees to enter jury service with that quality of disinterestedness essential to complete impartiality."

UNITED NATIONS

China Admission

ACCORDING to the latest information Ecuador, Egypt and France have decided to abstain if and when a proposal for admission of the People's Government is put before the UN Council. If two of these nations accept the principles included in a recent memorandum of Trygve Lie's, calling for settling the problem of China's recognition, there is a strong chance to obtain the necessary seven votes for its adoption. As matters now stand, taking into account the three abstentions, there already is a majority of five to three in the Council for the admission of the People's Government.

Regarding the admission of China to the UN, it has been pointed out that the Soviet Union has voted for the admission of some members which it did not diplomatically recognize. Also, the International Court of Justice, sitting at the Hague, was asked whether before voting in favor of an applicant for membership, any member could pose as a condition the existence of diplomatic relations. The Court ruled such a condition as out of order.

LETTERS

(Continued from Page 87)

If they find that America's huge armaments program and frantic attempt to knock together military alliances can lead to nothing but war, unless there is a drastic changes in government policy, they should—they must—speak out and take effective action to change that policy.

They must realize that a third world war, with all its atomic and bacteriological horrors, menaces them directly. If war comes again, they won't be able to enjoy four-dollar steaks and twenty-dollar silk shirts. They'll be digging into cellars in the heaps of rubble that were once cities, in the hope of finding some kind of shelter. I hope this realization comes soon, and along with it the realization that a piling up of arms and a threatening swagger is not the way to keep the peace.

WILLIAM C. BERGES

Shanghai
April 4, 1950

RETURN TO CHINA

To the Editor:

I left Nanking in the late fall of 1947 for special study in the United States and have now returned to find it no more the capital city, and that China has become the People's Democratic Republic. When I decided to return to China many friends tried to dissuade and discourage me, but I wanted to come back. I sailed for Singapore early in July and remained there until the "dust settled" in Canton. After I read that the railroad communication between Canton and Shanghai had been restored, I proceeded to Hongkong without further delay.

After a brief stay I went on to Canton by train and upon arrival there made a visit to Lingnan University. On the campus I was impressed by the peaceful and orderly atmosphere, and the way that both teachers and students were enthusiastically engaged in their respective tasks of teaching, studying, and "learning and practising" (hsioh hsi) New Democracy. The "Wall Newspaper" had announcements, reports, and exhortations to students, teachers, and workers to buy Victory Bonds. Much was also made of the fact that a few students who had won scholarships on the basis of academic achievement, but who did not need the money, had decided to forego this financial assistance and the awards were being converted into a "help study fund" for worthy students in humble circumstances.

While in Canton I saw young and healthy-looking soldiers with ruddy cheeks (quite unlike those sickly, underfed soldiers of former days) marching—or rather walking briskly—in good order carrying their rifles. They were cheered by onlookers and bystanders. I was glad to see with my own eyes the good discipline of the People's Liberation Army.

After two days I booked my passage for Shanghai. As there was no second class berth available, I was obliged to buy first class tickets. For the three-day, three-night journey, a berth, extra charges for bedding and tea and sundry service, I paid something more than JMP1,000 - 000 (at the prevalent rate of exchange JMP1,000,000 equalled about HK$200 or US$30)—a journey of 1903 kilometers and 50 hours of actual running time!

On this particular train the dining car was next to the 1st class compartment and at the other end of the dinner was a 3rd class coach reserved for soldiers and officers of the PLA (all dressed alike with no rank designators). A morning meal or lunch was served from 10:00 a.m. to noon, and supper was from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. Anyone who had the money and felt inclined to go to the dining car for meals had that right and privilege, not excluding soldiers and 3rd class passengers. The "waiters" had red arm-bands with white characters Fuh-wu-yuan ("server" or "serving functionary") and no one is called "ch'a fang," "fo-ki," or the objectionable "boy." Nobody gave any tip or gratuity.

The most heartening thing I saw was at one place where our train stopped. Fifteen soldiers boarded the train here, at different times, each one presenting a ticket at the station entrance and going straight to the 3rd class coach reserved for them. At one small town I saw soldiers queuing with farmers and workers to buy their tickets. Unlike before, soldiers paid for all their purchases. Most significant of all, I witnessed Liberation Army soldiers working in the rice fields, and at two important railroad bridges, I counted thirty and twenty soldiers respectively, engaged in construction and repair work along with civilians.

Travelling in the same compartment car was an ordinary merchant returning to Shanghai after a three-week business stay in Hongkong. He asked me how I liked the present condition of travel. He agreed that no heating and having to pay extra for bedding was different from former days, but he seemed satisfied. In fact, he said he was glad that conditions had changed, going on to explain: "Before, such a small merchant as I couldn't get to buy a 1st class berth ticket, not even for four in a room: but now, if I am willing to spend the money I may travel in a 1st class compartment. Before, for instance, on the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, being an ordinary person I could never get to travel in a compartment sleeping car, which invariably was reserved for government or KMT officials."

Once I had handed my tickets to the car attendant I was not interrogated by anyone all the way from Canton to Shanghai. Only when I got out of the ticket gate at the North Station, Shanghai did a man in brown uniform come up to me and ask politely: "May I ask, what is your business?" He was satisfied with my answer and did not ask me for any letter or document of identification.

I decided to take the last midnight train for Nanking. I was glad to be back in Nanking.

E. H. YEH

Nanking
March 25, 1950

SELF-CRITICISM

To the Editor:

At 7:30 p.m. on the Lunar New Year Day, a worker in the engineering department of the Canton-Hankow Railway, was crossing the railway on his way back from his relative's house after drinking. A locomotive came along at full speed and he quickly left the track and ran to a place where a sentry stood. The sentry ordered him to stop and examined him. He discovered that the worker was without a badge or any indentification. He then brought the worker to the military delegate of Changsha North Station. As soon as the military representative saw the drunken man, he became very angry and slapped him three times on the face.

A mass meeting was called so that the military representative and the worker could both confess their mistakes. At the meeting the military official said: "I am a worker myself. I should not have assaulted another worker. I made this mistake because I neglected my 'class' viewpoint and severed my connection with the working class. This is a serious mistake which should not be committed in the future. I am now more than 40 years old. When I worked in Manchuria for many years I never did anything wrong. The mistake I made today shows that I am still ignorant of Marxism-Leninism and the Communist Party policy. I hope all my comrades will critizice me so that I may improve day by day."

The worker also stated afterwards that he had made three mistakes: He became drunk and disorderly. He did not wear his badge. He was too rough toward the military delegate. Since that day he examined himself many times and admitted all his mistakes.

After both of them had confessed their mistakes before the mass meeting of all the workers of the engineering department, they shook hands for a long time. Watching the true spirit of mutual criticism and mutual friendship, all the workers present were greatly moved.

CHANG SHU-CHI

Changsha, Hunan
April 2, 1950

China Story Killed or Distorted by American Press

While it has long been common knowledge that much of the material about China carried by the American press in recent years has not presented a very accurate picture of conditions here, it has often been difficult to fix the "blame" aside from specific instances of inadequate or distorted reporting or editing. However, a first rate example of why and how the US public is misinformed or not informed at all was contained in an issue of the newsletter IN FACT, recently received here.

* * *

"IN 1946 Jack Belden, author of 'China Shakes the World,' went to China as a correspondent for *Colliers Weekly*. . . He gathered material which was unique, dramatic, important and certainly original, and he wrote it up not as political essays but as factual narratives. A story about a militia raid by farmers behind the lines and another of how a village revolted against its landlord, told in warm, simple, human style were received by *Colliers* and the cabled reply came back: 'excellent, your best.'

"The word 'communism' never appeared in these stories for that was not their subject matter, and *Colliers* offered a high price for both stories. But by the time the *Colliers* cable reached him, and before he could cable his acceptance another cable arrived declaring the magazine had changed its mind on the ground that he had identified himself with 'mob violence' in the stories. Later he learned that the publisher of *Colliers* had overruled the editors and insisted that the second cable be sent.

"Belden offered to write up some other material for the magazine, but without ever seeing the articles, and acting only on the story outlines, the managing editor wrote back that it was 'second rate.'

"Belden had gone to China on a contract with *Colliers* but he had paid his own expenses, including cables, and he was running out of money, so he decided to return to America and contact various editors personally.

"Immediately upon his return, another national weekly asked him to write some articles on China. He submitted 50,000 words of notes and told them to choose the subjects they wanted. They found the material so unique that they offered to pay him US$3,000 an article. However, the editor added in a note to the foreign editor that he wasn't going to print any 'goddamn leftie stuff,' but that things might work out if Belden 'played ball.'

"Under the circumstances and needing to earn some money, he decided to steer clear of trying to explain Chinese politics and wrote a factual military piece explaining how Chiang Kai-shek was defeated in battle. The magazine turned these articles down as being 'too favorable' to the Chinese communists.

"He then outlined a series of 15 articles for one of the New York papers. The foreign editor was excited by the idea, but his superior turned them down. 'This is a Republican paper, and every four years we stand on our heads,' he was told. Dewey was then running for President and was supporting Chiang. The paper apparently wouldn't print any special articles which showed Chiang in an unfavorable light—even though its own news dispatches at the time showed he was losing battles daily and was also losing China.

"Belden then wrote some articles and turned them over to an agent, who thought they were 'terrific' and could be sold easily. He was wrong. Another agent turned a story of a Chinese girl—a very original story of sex and revolution—over to a woman's magazine. 'Wonderful story,' the editor said, 'but we can't take it for policy reasons.'

Finally, Belden wrote the book, and before publication, turned proofs over to another agent to see if he couldn't sell it to magazines for serialization. 'My God, you write well,' he was told—but the agent said it was useless to even try to interest a magazine in them.

"And so the story went. Neither newspapers nor magazines would print the vivid, eye-witness account of a truly world-shaking event. Belden had lived in the huts and caves of the peasants, had seen men and women plot to overthrow the social order. He saw them murdered by their village suzerains, saw those who survived rise up in turn to kill with clubs, spears and pig knives. He participated in guerrilla raids, witnessed this people's savage war. . . . What he witnessed—as a trained observer—was a revolution in action with all its violence—yet no one would print his documented stories. Most of it is now in his book—latest proof that as far as papers and magazines go, they don't want the people to know what really goes on in the world about them.

* * *

"MUCH of the direction of American politics and the future of this country depends on knowing what is happening in China—as well as knowing what is happening in Europe (news of which the press fakes, distorts or suppresses) and what is happening in Washington. But the people don't know what is going on on any front, although peace or war depends greatly on knowing the facts. Right now the means of mass information are in the hands of editors and publishers who use them dishonestly. . . .

"Belden points out one of the most significant facts in modern American journalism: the failure of many honest correspondents to tell the truth because of fear they will be called 'reds.' It is the same with the US military observers and diplomats.

" 'Consciously or unconsciously, some of these men were afraid of becoming tainted with a politically pink tinge.' One said he was 'not sticking my neck out,' another said he was not going to report the significant Yellow River battle because he would be called a red. Belden continues:

" 'It was impossible for these men entirely to avoid the effects of the proscription of freedom of thought and conscience in the United States itself. It is true that they were not hunted down as many ordinary American citizens have recently been hunted down in the United States in an orgy of denunciation, suspicion, rumor and fear, but they were made to feel uneasy to a point where some of them were inclined to lose their curiosity about the inner workings of the Chinese Revolution. This led a few men to hold up mirrors to the viewpoints of their superiors in America instead of reflecting their own viewpoints as in the past.'

"Belden also reports that 'a New York newspaper suggested that the FBI investigate all writers who had ever said that China's reds were not communists. In other words, an attempt was made to frighten observers of the China scene with the specter of an American gestapo.'

"On the other hand, 'Henry Luce's *Time* and *Life* magazines, while often disregarding their own correspondents' dispatches,' sent William C. Bullitt to China who, according to Belden, spent a few days in the cities, did not fully investigate the situation, but came back to write his notorious article in *Life* demanding US intervention and war immediately. . . .

"And so Belden, detailing Chiang's fascism, treachery, corruption, and his mass murders, concludes that Chiang 'became the enemy of the people.' Nothing more need be said about this man whom every reactionary American newspaper and magazine and politician supports today."

The Review's English Lesson CXXV

Some Legal Terms

This week, we shall base the lesson on part of a review of a book on the Sacco-Vanzetti case. This notorious trial of two workers for murder was conducted in a most unjust manner and ended with the execution of the two men.

> No one has the right to pass as educated today unless he knows the Sacco-Vanzetti case, for this was not merely a trial in court. . . it was a spiritual setback. . . for . . . America. . . When a foreman of a jury prior to hearing any evidence in a capital case says of the defendants: "Damn them, they ought to hang anyway"; when a trial judge curses the defendants and misquotes testimony; when witness after witness for the prosecution acknowledges having committed perjury, and all this comes before an appellate court which refuses to intervene; when the Governor into whose hands the case comes refuses the clemency inherent and intended in his constitutional duty because he resents advice from people who do not own a house and lot in Massachusetts; when all this happens and two men die who, if not proved innocent, were certainly not proved guilty in accordance with the principles of even-handed justice—when all this happens, we can say, as did Heywood Broun. . .: "We have a right to beat against tight minds with our fists and shout a word into the ears of the old men. We want to know, we will know—Why?"

To pass as educated: to pretend to be educated.

Case: this is from a Latin word meaning to happen, to fall. It has come to have many common meanings, and in legal usage it means a suit or action at law.

Spiritual setback: a setback is a reverse, a loss of ground. The writer says that the trial and conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti should be considered a national moral lapse.

Foreman of a jury: the chief man of a jury, who acts as speaker and chairman. A jury, in law, is a body of men (usually twelve) sworn to give a true answer, or verdict, upon some matter submitted to them; especially, and to render (give) their verdict according to the evidence. Obviously, if one or more of the men composing the jury have made up their minds regarding the guilt or innocence of the defendants before they have heard the evidence, the trial will be only a farcical pretense at arriving at a just decision.

Prior to: an "officialese" term, one of many such examples of jargon that has lately come into general use. It simply means "before."

Capital case: an action at law involving a crime punishable with death.

Defendant: in law, a person required to make answer in an action or suit. In a trial, those against whom the action is brought, either by private parties or by the state, are called the defendants.

Damn: in its old and strict theological usage, the word means to doom to everlasting punishment. Nowadays, it means either to condemn a work of art or literature as worthless, as in "to damn with faint praise" — to praise a play, for example, so halfheartedly that the effect is really to dismiss it as worthless. In the present case, the word is used as a curse; it has become one of the politer swear words.

Ought to hang: in the mind of the speaker, the defendants were already adjudged guilty, and should be put to death by hanging.

Curses: to curse is to swear at, to use profanely insolent language against, someone.

Perjury: to commit perjury is to tell what is false when sworn to tell the truth; voluntarily to violate an oath.

Appellate court: a court which is vested with the power to review or reverse the decision of another tribunal; also, court of appeals.

Intervene: to come in or between two or more contending parties for the purpose of hindrance or modification of their dispute; here, the appellate court had the power to set aside the verdict of the lower court, but it refused to.

Clemency: disposition to be merciful; leniency. Synonyms are: mildness, indulgence, lenity, compassion, kindness.

People who do not own a house and lot: that is, people of the working class. People of large property holdings were generally against Sacco and Vanzetti, who were labeled Bolsheviks. Here, the phrase "own a house and lot" symbolizes wealth in general.

Even-handed justice: impartial justice.

Heywood Broun: a famous columnist in the daily press of America, now dead.

To beat against tight minds: to exert all our strength to convince those whose minds, having accepted the guilt of Sacco and Vanzetti, are tightly closed against all evidence to the contrary.

Old men: the prejudiced, wealthy, reactionary group who hounded the defendants to their death.

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